



Princess Michael of Kent, aged 37, has had an operation in the King Edward VII Hospital for Officers, in London, to remove her gall bladder. Kensington Palace announced. Her condition last night was satisfactory.

£1,750m offered for Amersham

Almost £1,750m has been offered for the Government's issue of shares in Amersham International, making it 24.6 times oversubscribed.

Employees have taken 1.3 million shares. The degree of oversubscription has raised strong criticism of the Government's decision to put the shares on offer at £7m instead of out to tender.

'No compromise' on The Times

Mr Rupert Murdoch, chairman of Times Newspapers, said last night that there could be no compromise over the management's demands for more than 600 redundancies at The Times and The Sunday Times.

Bomb injures former soldier

A former member of the Ulster Defence Regiment lost both legs and was "very seriously ill" in Craigavon Hospital last night after his booby-trapped car exploded in the grounds of St Luke's Psychiatric Hospital, Armagh. The man, aged 59, and married, left the regiment two months ago.

Students told to borrow

Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, advised students who tackled him at Carlisle to borrow money from their parents or a bank or take part-time jobs to help complete their education.

Poles pay up

Poland has now paid nearly all the interest and capital on its loans overdue from 1981, the main stumbling block to rescheduling \$2,400m of further borrowings.

Bathgate vote

BL workers at the Scottish truck plant followed their Lancashire workmates in calling off the four-week strike over redundancies. One of the Bathgate stewards accused the men back to work by the closure threat.

Irish hopes

Ireland attempt to win rugby union's Triple Crown for the first time in 33 years at Lansdowne Road, in London, today. In Paris, England meet France.

Gone Fishing

"The missing fishing rods, not the election campaign, seemed to be the more serious loss to all of us as we discussed important matters by the tumbling waters of the Pennsylvania Creek."

Jimmy Carter's fly-fishing diary, page 6

Leader page, 7
Letters: On Israel and Syria, from the Israeli Ambassador; on ancient monuments, from Professor Martin Biddle and others; Atlantic alliance; De Lorean; Breaking into jail.

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Optimism on Belfast car jobs

Five-week fight for survival at De Lorean

From David Hewson and Hugh Noyes in London and Nicholas Timmins in Belfast

Mr John De Lorean's career as a United Kingdom sports car manufacturer ended yesterday with the receivership of his Belfast-based firm.

The state, which had already provided £80m of aid to the three-year-old company, could be asked to give no more, Mr James Prior, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said.

Sir Kenneth Cork, one of the receivers appointed to the company, gave the firm five weeks to raise between £40m and £50m. He was optimistic that support could be found and had no immediate plans to lay off any of the 1,500 workforce.

Mr De Lorean left for New York shortly before Mr Prior announced the failure and management and marketing mistakes made over the sales estimates for the car.

A statement from Mr De Lorean said the firm had made nearly US \$6m profit in the three months to the end of last August, and an operating profit of about US \$4m in the last quarter of last year.

The statement compared the crash to the restructuring of Rolls Royce, and said that the firm's sports car had achieved United States sales figures in six months which it had taken competitors up to 17 years to achieve.

Mr De Lorean said in New York last night: "My conscience is very, very clear."

He felt no personal sense of loss. "What you have to say in life is that, if you have given it your best shot, you have accomplished all you can. We have made an important contribution where the world really needed it."

The crisis produced an unexpected measure of accord in the Commons when Mr Prior announced his decision. With much of the support for the firm's continued existence coming from Midland MPs, it demonstrated that its total collapse, which could affect thousands of jobs in mainland Britain, was a matter of national concern.

Mr De Lorean had been hoping for a last-minute cash injection from the West Coast of America, but when that help did not materialize, he had no alternative but to appoint Sir Kenneth and Mr Paul Shewell as receivers.

Mr Prior said it would be entirely wrong for him to indicate that further Government money would be forthcoming.

However, both he and the receivers hoped that a restructuring of the business might be possible, so he had agreed to the withdrawal of certain guarantees from the American parent company to the Belfast manufacturing company. Mr Prior explained that this would enable the companies to continue to trade.

Mr Prior felt it was far too ambitious to talk in terms of 18,000 to 20,000 car sales a year, as De Lorean originally had. A figure of 8,500 to 9,000 was more realistic, Mr Prior said he could give no assurances to creditors. They would have to take their risks.

Sir Kenneth Cork said he intended to continue short-term working, producing about 140 cars a week "for the time being". He believed there was a market for the cars and said there was considerable interest from financiers who had returned to the United States. He felt there was a good chance that money would be forthcoming, and said Mr De Lorean could regain control if he could raise the money.

He denied that the Government would write off £70m debts.

The receivership may still lead to job losses in the company's 200-plus suppliers, some of whom owed tens of thousands of pounds by the old company. Up to 1,000 jobs in Northern Ireland and several times that number in mainland suppliers such as British Steel, GKN, Lucas, and International Patents depend on De Lorean.

Union reaction to the move was mixed. Mr George Clarke of the Transport and General Workers' Union, which has 500 members at the plant, said he was disappointed and angry that the Government had not offered any new money.

Mr De Lorean had created a new factory and car from nothing, providing 7,000 jobs in Northern Ireland and elsewhere.

But Mr John Freeman, the union's chief spokesman, said: "The decision has to be welcomed, as it is the only way forward. We believe Sir Kenneth Cork can do with De Lorean what he has done with other companies and that is, to make them successful."

Rocky road to the precipice, page 3
Leading article, page 7

Go-ahead for private telecom network

By Bill Johnston, Electronics Correspondent

The Mercury private telecommunications consortium, headed by Cable and Wireless, has accepted the licence offered by the Government to run a network in competition with British Telecom.

The decision is the result of a meeting on Thursday of the consortium, whose other members are BP and Barclays Merchant Bank. A statement is to be made by the Government next week.

A management team is expected to be appointed within the next week and a new business plan is likely to be developed as a result of British Telecom's announcement that it proposes to offer high-speed telecommunication circuits to business users in the cities linked by the Mercury network.

The acceptance of the licence comes after about three months of negotiations between the consortium, British Telecom, and the Department of Industry.

Mercury's proposed network will involve the laying of 800 miles of fibre optic cable linking the main business centres in Britain at a cost of £50m. The network is expected to be operational within 18 months.

The protracted negotiations since the Government gave the consortium a letter of intent in November have covered the methods by which the Mercury system will interconnect with the British Telecom network.

Mercury will have its own satellite earth station for connection to international circuits. The technical arrangements for Mercury to interconnect with the British Telecom network have been completed but some of the commercial details have yet to be concluded. It is expected that the consortium will pay royalties in some instances to British Telecom.

British Telecom said last year that the granting of a licence would mean a rise in telephone charges for residential users because Mercury would cream off a large amount of the corporation's lucrative business traffic.

British Telecom has 15 million residential subscribers. Quicksilver service, page 15

Journalist cleared of contempt

By Frances Gibb

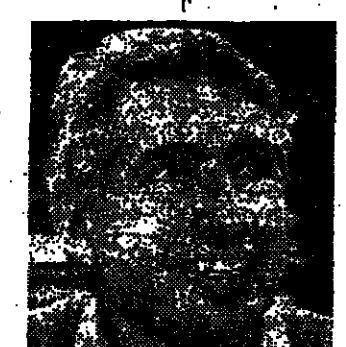
A journalist who refused to reveal the source of evidence which led to an exposure of illegality and corruption at Ladbroke's casinos and the loss of the group's licences was found not guilty of contempt of court yesterday.

Two High Court judges ruled that Jack Lordin, a journalist with The Observer, was not obliged to reveal the name of the source because the answer was not necessary to the interests of justice and could have served no useful purpose in the criminal proceedings then taking place.

Lord Justice Watkins, sitting with Mr Justice Giddwell, ordered Mr Lordin's Attorney General, who had sought an order for Mr Lordin's commitment to bear the costs and refused him leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

It is believed to be the first occasion on which a journalist who has refused to reveal his sources, a fundamental journalistic ethic, has not been found guilty of contempt upon prosecution.

After the case Mr Lordin said the proceedings against him had arisen because the



Jack Lordin: "Victory for press"

police had breached the understanding that he would not be called as a witness when he agreed to help them with their investigations.

"Very firm undertakings were given and understood by Detective Chief Superintendent John McNaught, head of the Nottinghamshire Constabulary CID: it was understood they would never put me in it, and he subsequently did."

The case had been hanging

over him for four years, he said. "I always felt this was an application that should never have been brought by the Attorney General and I am delighted at the verdict."

The decision was a victory for the press and he was grateful, he said, to the National Union of Journalists and Private Eye, the satirical magazine, who divided the costs between them. Mr Lordin contributed a quarter of the union's costs. "All this will now come back."

Mr Donald Treford, editor of The Observer, said: "It was an outrageous waste of public money for the police and Attorney General to bring this case at all. Their decision to do so can only be explained by the present mood of vindictiveness towards the press. If it was not for Lordin, the Ladbroke affair would never have been exposed."

Mr Richard Ingrams, editor of Private Eye, in which Mr Lordin's exposure of Ladbroke was published in 1978, said he was very pleased at the outcome.

Background, page 3
Law Report, page 21

Kumba the gorilla: eating into London Zoo's £1m



Feeding gorillas Kumba, left, and Salome costs London Zoo about £10 a week each, yet their diet is comparatively cheap. Elephants consume more than £60-worth of food each week; a polar bear's menu averages £55. Food costs account for 10 per cent of annual expenditure at the zoo, which reported a deficit of £550,000 for 1980. This week the Government announced a £1m emergency cash grant for the zoo

Haughey scents victory in close poll

From Richard Ford

The outcome of the Irish general election was still tantalisingly close last night. After six hours of results the opposition Fianna Fail predicted that they would form the next government, but the prospect of another hung Dail could not be dismissed.

It was not certain that the opposition would have an overall majority, or would have to rely on independents, though their number in the 23rd Dail seems certain to be less than the eight they had at the dissolution.

The provisional Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, were doing badly and Mrs Bernadette McAliskey failed in her attempt to make a political comeback south of the border.

Both the main party leaders scored major personal triumphs. Mr Charles Haughey, polled 16,143 in Dublin North Central, where one of his opponents was Mrs McAliskey.

The leader of the Labour Party, Mr Michael O'Leary, standing in Dublin Centre, was still fighting to hold his seat.

With an early swing to Fianna Fail of between one and two per cent, the opposition are going to form the next government with an overall majority, he said. But he refused to discuss the size of the majority, and added: "Our intention is to govern the country, we will win."

The mood in the Prime Minister's camp was said to be gloomy. Earlier, during the campaign, Dr Fitzgerald had said he did not think there would be a uniform swing across the country, and last night's results bore that out.

Mr Haughey, who was in the margins that mattered, Westford, Sligo-Leitrim, Meath and Kildare, Finnam, Fall had an advantage.

Despite Mr Haughey's confidence, if he fails to win with a convincing majority criticism of his leadership are sure to surface.

How Haig voiced his opinion of Carrington in army language

From Nicholas Hirst, Washington, Feb 19

Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, in a private meeting with his staff called Lord Carrington a "duplicitous bastard" over the Foreign Secretary's handling of arrangements for the Sinai peace-keeping force.

The comment is contained in a series of notes of staff meetings published in the Washington Post today which show Mr Haig to be far more gloomy about the future of Egyptian-Israeli relations than his public statements have suggested.

Taken by an unexpected participant at the staff meetings and checked with two others, the notes are likely to cause intense embarrassment in both political and diplomatic circles. They show a forceful, candid and sometimes crude Secretary of State.

The comments on Lord Carrington were made on October 15 during a discussion on the Sinai force, which the American diplomatic circle. They show a forceful, candid and sometimes crude Secretary of State.

According to the notes Egypt had changed its direction under President Hosni Mubarak. "My nose told me that a post-Sadat Egypt was going to be very different," Mr Haig said on January 18, discussing his recent trip to the Middle East.

"Only thing keeping Egypt going back to pre-Sadat treaty is the Sinai territory," Mr Haig said. "The Sinai is a 180 degree different from last May." That was when Mr Haig had visited Egypt while Sadat was still alive.

The new position Mr Haig said, had "led to paranoia in

Child has no right to sue for its birth

By Annabel Ferriman

A child cannot sue a health authority or a doctor for allowing it to be born, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday.

Mary McKay, aged six, who was born partly blind and deaf after being infected with rubella (German measles) while in the womb, was suing Essex Area Health Authority and Dr Gower Davies, of Basildon, Essex, for not advising her mother to have an abortion.

Her mother, Mrs Jacinta McKay, from Woodford, Essex, suspected when pregnant that she had been exposed to rubella and asked for blood tests. It is alleged that both Dr Davies, her doctor, and the health authority failed to carry out the correct tests and told her it was in order to maintain the pregnancy.

Mrs McKay is suing Dr Davies for allegedly not treating the rubella when she had it, which would have limited the damage, and allegedly failing to inform her she had rubella, after she had provided two blood samples.

Mrs McKay, who says she would have had an abortion if she had known the truth, is suing the health authority for allegedly not carrying out the correct tests. Those claims were not heard yesterday.

The case being considered was an additional claim brought by Mary McKay through her mother, Mr Michael William Davies, that the duty Dr Davies owed her when she was in the womb involved advising her mother of the desirability of an abortion, which advice her mother would have accepted.

In a case "unique to the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth" she claims she has suffered damage by "entry into a life in which injuries are highly debilitating". She is bringing the same case against Essex Area Health Authority.

The claim was struck out on February 17 last year by Master Bickford-Smith, but his decision was reversed four months later by Mr Justice Lawson. Yesterday Dr Davies and the Essex Area Health Authority appealed against his decision.

Lord Justice Stephenson, sitting with Lord Justice Ackner and Lord Justice Griffiths, allowed the appeal, saying that a child could not sue for having been born. She could have been legally aborted, but there was no obligation or duty on the doctor to abort.

If a child could sue a health authority or a doctor for allowing it to be born handicapped, it would imply that it has a right to be born whole, or not to be born unless it can be born perfect or "normal", whatever that may mean.

The defendants were refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords but said they would consider asking the Lords for permission.

Law report, page 21

Striking rail guards jeer union chief

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

Rumblings of discontent on the railways over the controversial issue of flexible rostering continued yesterday when several hundred guards in London and the South-east staged a unofficial 24-hour walk out in protest at the decision of their union, the National Union of Railwaymen, to sign a new rostering agreement.

About 200 of the guards marched on their union's London headquarters in protest and jeered and booed Mr Sidney Weighall, the union's general secretary, when he explained that the flexible rostering agreement would improve their conditions of work.

The protest was taking place as the two railwaymen, who caused a storm last month by claiming in The Sun that train drivers were involved in fiddles and often drank on duty, were dismissed by British Rail, after a disciplinary hearing.

A management statement, after the hearing at Clepham Junction station in south London, said that they were found to have broken BR rules and were dismissed "as a result of admissions of malpractice reported in The Sun newspaper and subsequently repeated elsewhere."

The two men, Mr Geoffrey Leighton, aged 23, of Southampton, and Mr Max Wallace, 30, of Southampton, faced various charges including drinking on duty, switching turns of duty, and being absent from shifts.

The most serious charge against Mr Wallace was that he had assumed control of a packed rush hour train from Epsom to Waterloo and drove at speeds of up to 100 mph when the speed limit was 50 mph and while he was still "drunk".

Both men said they intended to appeal against the dismissals. Mr Leighton said he was "absolutely disgusted. It goes on all over the railways". Mr Wallace believed that they had been made scapegoats and both said they had no regrets over making the allegations in The Sun.

It was the allegations made by the two members of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (ASLEF) during the drivers' dispute that led ASLEF members at King's Cross to black all publications of News International, owners of The Sun.

The protest by the NUR guards came a day after ASLEF called off its strikes over the flexible rostering issue and non-payment of a 3 per cent increase. The NUR members have been receiving the 3 per cent because their union signed an agreement with British Rail on rostering.

The stations worst affected by the strike were Farringham, where about 40 per cent of services were cancelled and Liverpool Street, where 50 trains were cancelled yesterday morning—with similar disruption for commuters trying to make the way home last night.

Mr Weighall agreed to meet the guards demonstrating outside his office but after the 30-minute meeting he said: "It was a bit rowdy in there. If people won't understand, there is no power on earth that will make them understand."

He tried to explain the rostering agreement to the men who claimed to represent many London depots. He believed the protest was a hiccup and that most of the 12,000 guards were abiding by the agreement.

But after the meeting Mr Des Lane, the guards' spokesman, said another meeting would be held on Monday to consider "possible further action." The 200 people here today represent literally thousands. Our feeling of opposition to the agreement is one of opposition to the whole constitution of our union," he said.

INCURABLE? -Yes.

UNHAPPY? -No.

The British Home and Hospital for Incurables specialises in looking after men and women suffering from progressive paralyzing diseases. They need very special care and attention. Some are helpless, bedridden... these unlucky ones have to be nursed, really cared for, with compassion, courtesy and patience. The BHHI receives no State aid. We must rely upon your generosity for a very worthy cause, in this special year for the disabled.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Cut of £2m in police budget

West Midlands police are to lose £2.2m from their budget of £115m, the controlling Labour group of the West Midlands Metropolitan Council decided last night (Peter Evans writes). The cut is proportionately less than the reduction to be made in other services.

Mr Edwin Shore, chairman of the West Midlands Police Authority, last night blamed "the ridiculous financial restrictions" placed in the West Midlands by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment.

The reduction is despite a last-minute attempt by Mr Heseltine to make £2m more available to provincial police forces.

The Department of the Environment has said that £13m cut from the estimated budget of the Metropolitan Police in London will be made available to provincial forces but Mr Shore said last night that the share available for West Midlands would be "crumbs".

Girl cadet dies in river accident

A schoolgirl Army cadet died last night and a boy was critically ill in Medway Hospital, Gillingham, after an accident on the River Medway, in Kent, when an amphibious boat capsized carrying 200 yards off Upnor, near Rochester, with 12 cadets, boys and girls, on board.

The dead girl was last night named as Nicola Fan, aged 15, of Blenheim Road, Gillingham. The boy was Deepesh Patel, aged 14, of Norbury Hill, south London. All 12 cadets came from Aynsley School in Dulwich, south London.

A Van Dyck for death duty

The Government has accepted "The Betrayal of Christ" by Van Dyck, at a net cost of £50,000 in part payment of death duties from the estate of Lord Methuen, who died in 1975.

The large-scale religious work, painted early in Van Dyck's career, is estimated to be worth £2.5m and was offered to the Government on condition that it remained at Corsham Court, near Bath, which houses one of the country's most distinguished private art collections.

Eight held after animal protest

Protesters opposed to a new drugs laboratory chained themselves to railings outside Cambridge University Senate House yesterday. Police used bolt cutters to free them and said later that eight people were being questioned.

Parke Davies, the American pharmaceutical company, said the £1.5m laboratory, to be built on university land in the next two years, would use animals for experiments to find cures for crippling illnesses.

Battered baby man cleared

Mr Richard Davis, aged 34, the social worker at the centre of a storm over the death of a battered baby, Jason Caesar, aged 19 months, has been cleared by Cambridgeshire social services committee.

The committee heard more than 20 hours in secret session studying the case.

Schools plan rejected

Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, has rejected plans by the Conservative-controlled London borough of Croydon to replace its 19 secondary schools with eight schools for pupils aged 11 to 16 and a new tertiary college.

Hattersley plans elected London police authority

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The next Labour government would set up a new, elected London police authority with the same powers as those now exercised by provincial authorities, Mr Roy Hattersley, the shadow Home Secretary, said last night.

That would end the traditional role of the Home Secretary as police authority for the capital which he called "a fiction".

In an important statement of Labour's attitude to the police, Mr Hattersley gave no details of any proposals for the composition of the authority, but he remarked: "I am absolutely certain that, had the Metropolitan Police been influenced over the last 10 years by elected representatives from all or any of the parties, many of the mistakes would have been avoided and the reputation of the Metropolitan Police would stand far higher than it stands today. It would have been closer to the people".

Mr Hattersley, speaking in south Gloucestershire, set out new proposals to make the police more accountable to the public and committed Labour to setting up a national police authority, under the control of the Lord Chancellor, and to reforming the police complaints procedure.

The relationship between police and people had deteriorated significantly in the last decade, Mr Hattersley said. The Labour Party had a strong vested interest in creating and maintaining a peaceful society.

In a very real sense we must be closer to the law and order party, he said.

Although he did not want constant interference in the day-to-day operation of the police, there should be new police authorities responsible for police policy. They would be composed solely of elected representatives of the area who took decisions on the nature of policing in their districts. The police would be on foot or in a car whether the force is organized for a quick response to isolated incidents or the constant involvement in the life of the community, and where the greatest efforts of the police force should be concentrated.

Mr Hattersley said that at present there was constant argument about what powers police committees possessed. Chief police officers would say that they were responsible to the law of the land, but for most decisions they were answerable to no one.

There should be a new Police Act which would describe where powers lay and give real powers to the police committee: "Men who enjoy the power and authority of controlling police forces ought to have their rights and responsibilities clearly set out in statute", Mr Hattersley said.

He added that last summer, after Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, had announced that he was making supplies of CS gas and rubber bullets and armoured vehicles available to forces who wanted them, someone had to take a decision on whether individual forces availed themselves of the offer.

That decision concerns the nature of policing in the area, the whole relationship between police and public and the future character of the area itself. It seems to me intolerable that such a fundamental decision should be taken by one man who is in reality answerable to no one.

Mr Hattersley said that to reassure the public it was essential that independent investigation should play at least some part in the examination of every complaint against the police. The important objective was increased confidence in the police.

□ The Metropolitan Police yesterday unsuccessfully sought leave to challenge a High Court ruling earlier this week that they were acting illegally in continuing to bring prosecutions under the new "Section 4" law, on section four of the Vagrancy Act, 1824 (Francis Gibb writes).

The ruling in the High Court affects more than a hundred potential prosecutions throughout London.



Mr Derrick Morris, who with his wife is celebrating this weekend the second anniversary of his heart transplant operation at Harefield Hospital, Middlesex. Mr Morris, aged 52, a docks supervisor from Swansea, is the hospital's longest surviving heart transplant patient.

Bathgate workers vote to end BL truck strike

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

BL workers at Bathgate, West Lothian, yesterday followed their colleagues at Leyland, Lancashire, and agreed to end the four-week strike that brought the company's truck and bus operation to the brink of closure.

Both factories decided to return to work against shop stewards' recommendations and the votes were surrounded by an atmosphere of fear, bitterness and recrimination.

The 12,000 strikers were clearly influenced by the company's warnings that if the stoppage continued the BL board would discuss closing the division.

Mr James Swan, chairman of the Bathgate stewards, said: "I think our members were frightened back to work."

There were angry scenes at Leyland on Thursday when many of the people at the mass meeting disagreed with the stewards' view that the vote had been in favour of continuing the strike. The decision was reversed later and the men are

Theatre cancels ballet

By Christopher Warman, Arts Correspondent

The first programme of the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet season at Sadler's Wells Theatre, in London, from February 23 to 25, has been cancelled because of the dispute involving musicians in the ballet orchestra, the Royal Opera House announced last night.

The dispute has already caused the cancellation of the ballets to be performed at the Royal Opera House and the Musicians' Union failed to resolve it in time for the opening of the ballet's two-week season to start on Tuesday.

The dispute is over the musicians' claims for retainer payments when the ballet goes on tour without the orchestra. If the retainer is not agreed, the unions insisted on having to be honoured.

When asked whether there were too many people in the theatre, he replied: "Well, not working there are too many people sitting around and standing around. One questioner wondered why he had brought the newspapers to the place. 'I do too'."

Mr Murdoch said.

to return to work on Monday. Leyland management wants to restructure its commercial vehicle activities and shed 4,100 jobs. Last week it rejected an alternative strategy compiled by union officials which, the company said, would have involved a £600m investment over the next five years.

The BL corporate plan for trucks involves 1,365 redundancies at Bathgate, which is to become Leyland's primary engine-making facility. 1,855 at Leyland, 140 at the Albion works near Glasgow and 740 at Guy Motors in Wolverhampton, which is to be closed.

The workers' protest over the closure of the Leyland division's length support from the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers. Although it declared the strike official, the union executive insisted that a letter from Sir Michael Edwards, the BL chairman, to Mr Terence Duffy, the union president, emphasizing the plight of the division should be read at the mass meetings.

The New International statement also said that some groups at TNL "appear to be intractable in their unwillingness to negotiate with a view to achieving a viable future for the company".

"These groups are frustrating attempts to bring about the total agreement which we have stated from the outset to be an essential condition for the continued existence of the company," the statement said.

It is believed to refer to the clerical staff of the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel (Nasop), from whom the company is seeking a reduction of 371 jobs.

Mr William Keys, general secretary of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades (Sogat), said last night that he expected to meet Mr Murdoch tomorrow and believed that other minor groups would be able to reach agreement. News International executives were unable to confirm that the meeting would take place.

Five independent national directors of TNL are due to meet on Monday morning to discuss Mr Murdoch's proposals to restructure the company. The titles of the two newspapers into the ownership of News International. The dailies had been transferred from TNL but were returned to the company by News International after a court decision in favour of the Department of Trade.

The National Union of Journalists (NUJ) yesterday urged them to oppose the transfer of titles in order to preserve the status and integrity of Times Newspapers Ltd with its titles.

Rust-proof dream car caught in recession

Rocky road that led De Lorean to the precipice

From Nicholas Timmins, Belfast

The rise and fall of the De Lorean Motor Company has been as spectacular as that of the gullwing doors on the company's 120 mph stainless steel sports car. In three and a half years the company has gone from a greenfield site in Dunmurry, south Belfast, to production of 18,000 cars a year, to the present crisis and the hope of small-scale continuing production.

It was August, 1978, when a jubilant Mr Roy Mason, then Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, announced a £53m package of government investment and aid that took De Lorean to the 56-acre Dunmurry site rather than to Puerto Rico, the Irish Republic or one of several other European countries.

Mr John De Lorean, founder of the company, said the plan would "take the company from production within 18 months" with 20,000 cars in the first full year and 30,000 in the second. The aim was to sell the two-seater car at \$14,000.

Orders for 30,000 cars were said to be in the pipeline, thanks to a network of United States dealers who had to buy \$25,000 of De Lorean stock and themselves invest in the same amount to replace the cars of later selling the cars in Europe and the Middle East.

If critics saw the project to



Dream machine: The car on which so many hopes rested

sell an untried market car as a business operating on a gullwing door, a prayer, in Northern Ireland it was seen as providing a crucial 2,000 jobs near the depressed Rotten Catholic areas of west Belfast, where unemployment was more than 35 per cent and higher still among the young.

Le Lorean hit some of its ambitious targets ahead of schedule. But in other respects things rapidly went wrong. Although the first car rolled off the production line in January, 1981, after intensive engineering work by the British sports car company,

Lotus, the launch of the car in the United States in June was months later than planned.

The price had risen to \$25,000, taking it into competition with Porsche and Mercedes, and there was criticism of the finish of the early models. In mid-1980 De Lorean had to go back to the Government for an extra £14m to bring the car to the market.

De Lorean received loans, grants and guarantees from the Government totalling £38m. The Northern Ireland Department says De Lorean has to date paid £878,000 interest

on the loans, together with £500,000 in royalties, payments, due at the rate of £185 a car.

Mr De Lorean has said that the Dunmurry plant has been fire-bombed 140 times. Police records do not seem to substantiate that.

The company has complained that while emphasis is always placed on the size of government investment, the fact that about £71m has been returned to Northern Ireland in wages and plant by the company is ignored.

By August, 1981, employment at the plant had topped 2,000. Production last year rose to a peak of 400 cars a week and the plant was providing 2,500 jobs. But the car hit an American market that failed to make its predicted recovery. Overall car sales of 10 million in a good year slumped to 8.5 million last year, with sales plunging in November and December.

In Mr De Lorean's words: "The industry went into the ashcan". De Lorean sales went with it. By the end of last year, 7,681 cars had been manufactured, but only 4,755 had been sold to dealers by January 15 last. In spite of heavy discounts only 3,085 retail sales had been made.

Needing more funds to see the company through to the expected start of sales in the spring, De Lorean had also been affected last October by allegations of financial irregularity.

The allegations, of which Mr De Lorean has been cleared, came when the company was planning an issue of a million shares in the United States initially intended to raise \$28m. The issue collapsed in January, when the Wall Street brokers managing it asked for a last minute increase in the price of the shares to \$15 a share, a threefold increase in the price of the shares.

De Lorean turned back to the British Government, seeking guarantees for loans of £35m from the Export Credits Guarantee Department. In a meeting which ended at 1 am Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, refused the funds and appointed Sir Kenneth Cork to advise on the company's future as Coopers and Lybrand reviewed the company's performance.

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New talks likely on future of 'Times'

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

Mr Rupert Murdoch, chairman of Times Newspapers Limited (TNL), is expected to meet national officials of the printing unions tomorrow, 24 hours before the company board is to decide whether to sanction the closure of The Times and The Sunday Times.

Negotiations with unions have been continuing at Chapel (office branch) level, but News International, the parent company, gave a warning last night that the state of the talks could be described "only as extremely grave".

It is thought that so far fewer than a hundred employees have volunteered for redundancy, compared with the 600 sought.

Mr Murdoch last night repeated that he intended to close The Times and The Sunday Times on Monday unless agreement was reached on redundancies. "Monday is the crunch day", he said.

Speaking at Heathrow airport on his arrival from the United States, he said: "There can be no compromise. We have said we want more than 600 redundancies and the loss of several hundred single shift workers. These figures cannot be changed."

Asked if he had no responsibility to keep open The Times, Mr Murdoch said: "I have more than met my responsibilities to many, many millions of pounds. If The Times has to close down, the Government will welcome it. If the unions are closed, there are no plans to reopen them. We would hope to keep the titles, but if no agreement is reached by Monday it will be the end."

He added: "I feel I have been betrayed." While the union arguments on manning terms made a year ago had been kept, "the terms of dispute procedures which some of the unions insisted on have not been honoured."

When asked whether there were too many people in the newspaper, he replied: "Well, not working there are too many people sitting around and standing around. One questioner wondered why he had brought the newspapers to the place. 'I do too'."

Mr Murdoch said.

Sunspots throw up climatic mystery

By the Staff of "Nature"

Although the Sun was virtually devoid of sunspots between 1645 and 1715, the period known as the Maunder minimum, the temperature at the surface of the Earth seems to have fluctuated once every 23 years during that period, as if the sunspot cycle had persisted, according to an analysis of meteorological records of central England compiled by the late Professor Gordon Manley.

The analysis by S. Hameed and P. Wyant, of the State University of New York at Stony Brook, Long Island, is important not merely for what it suggests about the long-term behaviour of the Sun, but also about the connection between solar activity and the Earth's climate.

Although a rhythmic variation of surface temperature once every 23 years or so has been recognized for some time, and has been supposed to be related to the sunspot cycle (which takes on the average 11.5 years to complete), there is as yet no convincing explanation of how the sunspot cycle could affect our climate.

Records of sunspots, sunspot counts and sunspot areas, as well as widespread introduction of telescopes that it was not remarked on until long after the sunspot cycle resumed at the beginning of the nineteenth century.

Since the middle of the eighteenth century every other sunspot maximum appears to have coincided with a maximum of the average temperature of central England. Similarly, sunspot minima coincided with years in the lowest temperatures in Manley's records.

That general variation of average temperature in the nineteenth century with the sunspot cycle has been confirmed by the analysis of more accurate modern records.

The surprise in the new analysis is that rhythmic variation of surface temperature every 23 years has been shown to have persisted in the absence of a sunspot cycle during the closing decades of the Maunder minimum, those for which records are scanty.

But the records also show that the climatic pattern is surprisingly out of step with that of the period since 1761, two complete (23 year) solar cycles after the ending of the Maunder minimum. Significant features of the temperature were a maximum at the times when the present pattern of 23-year cycles would, protected backwards, have coincided with a minimum of temperature.

The difference between the two halves of a 23-year sunspot cycle is known to involve a reversal of magnetic polarity in surface layers of the Sun in which sunspots appear. The inference from the new analysis is that during the Maunder minimum that the pattern of that alternation was reversed early in the Maunder minimum.

Source: Geophysical Research Letters, Volume 9, page 32 (January 1982). © Nature-Times Service, 1982.

Management mistakes in car chief's downfall

ULSTER

Explaining that it had been a difficult decision, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, outlined his reasons for rejecting the plan to build a new car plant in the Commons how De Lorean Cars Limited of Belfast had gone into receivership and that formal steps to appoint a liquidator had been taken. Mr Prior said that the company had been taken over by the Department of Commerce. There was no question of further public money for the company.

As for the future, he said in reply to the Rev Ian Paisley (North Antrim, Dem U) that the Government was not in a position to instruct the receiver but Sir Kenneth Cork had said: "I am sure that the company will be able to do everything possible through a reconstruction of the business to maintain in Belfast the operation of manufacturing De Lorean motor cars."

That is our wish (Mr Prior went on) and our intention as well but it will have to be done by the company. That is why it is so important that nothing should be said which in any way makes the task of Sir Kenneth Cork more difficult. Unsold cars should be sold at the proper price because that was the way in which creditors like those in the West Midlands and elsewhere would receive the best dividend. Therefore nothing should be done to knock the car, let alone the future of the company.

Mr Prior said no one should underestimate the suffering the Northern Ireland economy was experiencing with 20 per cent unemployment and more than 40 per cent male unemployment in many areas.

If we did not have the problem of security and violence for other reasons (he said), we would be getting close to it now for economic reasons. There is a much more difficult political advance and political stability and better security in Northern Ireland. It will be difficult to attract the sort of industry that is going to survive and prosper.

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intention to carry on a limited programme of production. He welcomed that approach and hoped it would pave the way to maintaining employment at the plant.

The receivers have also asked the Government to facilitate them in their approach, and in the light of an offer by Mr De Lorean to put £5m of new resources into the American company, the Government would be withdrawing of certain guarantees made by the American parent company to the Belfast manufacturing company.

In order to enable the companies to continue to trade and to maintain an orderly market for the cars in the United States, I have, on the advice of the receivers, agreed to the withdrawal of these guarantees. Since we do not have a car in the market, the Government would not be surrendering anything of practical value.

It is clearly a matter of concern to Government that this position should have been reached. There can be no guarantee that through reconstruction a secure way ahead can be found. But the receivers have made it clear that serious negotiations with interested parties are under way.

I hope that all concerned will work together to explore the scope for establishing a viable, realistic and financially secure basis on which the De Lorean sports motor project might survive and continue to provide much needed employment in Northern Ireland and elsewhere.

The board of DNCL have assured me that they will do all in their power to assist the receivers in their task.

Mr Dennis Concanon, chief

Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland (Mansfield, Lab), welcomed an end to the uncertainty of recent weeks, said that the company had been outside the Belfast factory hinged on continued production of the car.

We hope this constructive receivership will work ceaselessly (he said) to preserve these jobs at this time of record high unemployment in Ulster.

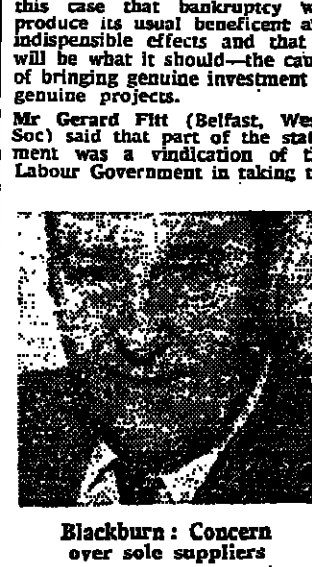
The key word for the future must be confidence. The De Lorean car will be marketable only when dealers and consumers have confidence in continued production and in the support of the Commons.

The views of some MPs have been unhelpful and damaging in recent months. The more people have knocked De Lorean, more sales have been restricted in America and harmed jobs. We want an end to these personal attacks and to these personal attacks and to these personal attacks.

Unless we can be seen to be improving the job situation in Ulster, Mr Prior can forget about political initiatives. Mr Prior must redouble his efforts to bring investment to Ulster. He has an uphill task and a long way to go to get back to the record employment levels that we left.

Mr Prior: We have put £80m into this project and it seemed to me that the time had come when the Government had to say go. No credibility would have been left in many things we are seeking to do to help in Ulster had we taken any other course.

It was a difficult decision because of the implications for many small creditors on our side of the Irish Sea. Our policy is to try to bring fresh investment to Ulster and we give top



Blackburn: Concern over sole suppliers

priority to funds for commercial development.

Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, Off U): It will be hoped in this case that bankruptcy will produce its usual beneficial and irreversible effects and that it will be what it should—the cause of bringing genuine investment in genuine projects.

Mr Gerard Punt (Belfast, West, Soc): That that the statement was a vindication of the Labour Government in taking the decision to fund the plant.

The continuation of the plant will depend on the receiver being able to make satisfactory arrangements with one or other of the people negotiating with him at present. The level of the work force will have to be decided by that, but it seems from all the information and reports I have had that it was far too ambitious to talk in terms so early on of sales of 18,000 to 20,000 cars a year.

It would have been much more realistic to think of 8,500 to 9,000 a year and the fundamental management mistake was made last July when a second shift was brought in.

With a rather complicated sports car in the American market, subject to all the competition, everything I have seen shows that considerable management and marketing mistakes were made over the likely level of sales.

Mr Prior, answering further questions, added: I can give no assurance about the position of creditors. It would be quite wrong if I in any way sought to do so. I am afraid they have to take their risks and stand alongside other people in this unfortunate situation.

One of the most unsatisfactory parts of the whole structure of this business has been the relationship between the American company and the Belfast company and certainly the receiver will not be

satisfied to go on with the present arrangements—or I imagine he will not put in the report he has produced to me.

A low car production level of 5,000 to 6,000 units a year is profitable and that is another of the problems. It has to get up to 8,500 or thereabouts in order to be profitable in the way of its own face.

Mr Robert Crier (Kelghly, Lab): Does he think that Mr De Lorean, a helpful gesture to build up confidence for the future, will transfer the rights to the manufacture of the car to the receiver or the new company?

Mr Prior: That is an important point. I must leave it to the receiver. It is a point he will have in mind.

Sir John Biggs-Davison (Epping Forest, C): Is he aware of the relief that would be to the relief that good money is not to be sent after bad? Future investment should be sound investment.

Mr Prior: Certainly we need to look carefully at future investment. We need to see in any future investment that there is a larger input of private sector money to go alongside any money that is put in by the state. That is one of the lessons. The other is that Northern Ireland has a very good workforce and we need to capitalize on that in every way.

Mr John Blackburn (Dundee, West, Lab): Would he consider the effect this is going to have on my constituency where several companies are sole suppliers to the De Lorean motor company?

Mr Prior: One of the factors I have in my mind is the number of small suppliers in the West Midlands and elsewhere who, as things stand, are likely to be badly affected by this receiver-ship.

He added later: There is no question of any further money or assurances being given by the Government to the De Lorean project as such.

Dog warden scheme is blocked

ENVIRONMENT

A Bill proposing the establishment of a national dog warden scheme was killed off by a motion to allow a decision to be taken on a sufficient support.

The Bill's sponsor, Mr Jack Aspinwall (Kingswood, C) indicated that the Bill was particularly directed at stray dogs which caused accidents, worried livestock and fouled parks and beaches, said it would be more economically viable for local authorities to introduce dog wardens who would be responsible for the collection of stray and educating the public in responsible pet ownership.

Mr Thomas Cox (Wandsworth, Lab) said that dog warden schemes should be registered with the local authority.

Mr Anthony Speller (North Devon, C) said his pedigree as dog lover was well established. Even the name of his dog was "over the top". The Jack Russell breed originated in his constituency. His mother kept wire-haired terriers and was well known for her terrier. (Laughter.) Only an unwise administration would be seen to be against dog legislation of that kind.

Mr Giles Shaw, Under Secretary of State for Environment, said the Bill involved major changes in the regime for dogs. The Government was unable to give any assurances already had substantial powers.

The debate was adjourned.

Mr Jael acquitted himself of an irony who explication of the situation. Even the quantity, investigation including imprisonment and his 11 years. Union of J magazine, Paul had not had of pounds well. In ex men he ex suspended their orders a year ago. In 1978 I freedom to inform the casino broke, w methods to gamble in Expenditure. Shoppers customers, allowed to i distasteful, ins wait for i hours, and commission members to how much t. The mos tally, w resulted in court price Ladup office the registra cars parke drivers tra police com than. Thos then lavish.

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Brittan stands firm on pleas for reflation

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mrs Margaret Thatcher's unwavering opposition to reflation, which she described as dishonest money in a television interview on Thursday, was echoed last night by Mr Leon Brittan, Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

With the Budget less than three weeks away, the Treasury appears to be taking every opportunity to prepare the country for a far less significant boost to the economy than many Conservative MPs and former ministers want.

Mr Brittan was clearly reinforcing the Prime Minister's outspoken rejection of reflation when he said that those who called for the creation of jobs through higher public spending and borrowing ignored what happened to Britain in the past and what other governments were doing now.

"Those who urge us to abandon the fight against inflation and spend and borrow our way to full employment are practising a cruel trick on the British people in general and the unemployed in particular," he said in his Cleveland and Whitby constituency.

The escalating levels of inflation in the past and the failure to reduce them were

among the main causes of the present levels of unemployment. No policy which envisaged easing up in the fight against inflation would create jobs that would last, but would destroy them.

Mr Brittan said that responsible governments had rejected policies which jeopardized success in the slow battle against inflation. "They recognize that a lasting reduction in unemployment could only be achieved when inflation has been brought down and it is believed that it will stay down."

Mr Francis Pym, Leader of the Commons and Lord President of the Council, who incurred the Prime Minister's displeasure two weeks ago for what she regarded as a too pessimistic contribution to the economic debate, last night paid tribute to Mrs Thatcher's honesty and courage for putting long-term sustained recovery above short-term popularity and soft options.

In a speech in Hull, Mr Pym called for a sense of crusade to be adopted in the quest for new industries, markets and products as some of Britain's traditional industries declined.

"We must use our native skills, our ingenuity and our

inventive genius to earn our living and pay our way. We must use our technical skills and wits to sustain and improve our living standards," he said.

Mr Michael Foot, Labour leader, last night accused the Government of "political muggery" against the jobs.

He said that 1982 was to be the year for the persecution of the jobless. They were to be harassed, impoverished and degraded.

Mr Foot, speaking in Carlisle, said the long-term unemployed had suffered most. After a year on the dole their income fell by £10 a week to the supplementary benefit level. Those who had been on the register for six months had seen the value of their benefit cut by 7 per cent under the Tories and were now to have it brought into tax.

The worst-affected "victims" were those who had been out of work for less than six months, who lose £13 a week earnings related supplement.

Mr Foot supposed the Government was using unemployment to terrify those still in work into accepting lower wages and forcing those on the dole to take low-paid jobs.

How rare falcon was saved from dodo's fate

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A way of breeding kestrels in captivity, used by Mr Carl Jones, a young Welsh ornithologist, has been used by him in a last-minute attempt to save one of the world's rarest birds of prey from extinction. The bird under threat is the Mauritius falcon.

The rescue is remarkable for two reasons. First, many naturalists believed the falcon population had declined beyond recovery. Second, the method Mr Jones adopted involves the controversial practice of taking a clutch of eggs from the nest for rearing in captivity, but timing the action so that the birds lay a second clutch.

A report on the present numbers of the Mauritius falcon, which experts from international wildlife organizations believed four years ago had fallen below 10 and hence to an irretrievable level, is the subject of a programme, *Nature Watch*, made by Central Independent Television. It is being screened on Monday.

The falcon declined as its forest habitats were destroyed by developments in agriculture and the destruction of its eggs by monkeys in the unprotected places where the birds were forced to nest.

Mr Jones was therefore invited by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the World Wildlife Fund and the Mauritius government to lead a programme of rescue.

The project was offered shortly after he graduated in zoology. Mr Jones is now 27 years old, but even before he went to university he bred kestrels, owls and other types of falcon at his home at St Clears, near Haverfordwest.

As other people might take their dog with them for company, Carl Jones has taken his favourite peregrine falcon to university with him to Mauritius.

The Mauritius falcon is only one of three birds for which he has mounted a rescue effort. But he believes the only way of saving them is through breeding in captivity. He bred the young bird and chicks after finding a nest 600 ft up the side of a cliff.

From his experience in Wales he knew that if eggs were removed on the sixth day after laying, the birds would almost certainly lay again, probably in a safer place.

So he removed the eggs and raised them in an incubator. In that way he got a clutch bred in captivity and one in the wild.

Recently he obtained two more eggs from another nest, and four birds have hatched in captivity. More important, he says, they are from two distinct genetic lines, providing a good basis for inter-breeding.



One of Mr Jones's home-bred falcons.



Heseltine's brush with demonstrators

Demonstrators threw eggs and biscuits at Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, when he inspected a private street cleansing operation in London borough of Wandsworth yesterday.

Mr Heseltine made light of the protest and was enthusiastic about the new arrangements which are saving the borough an estimated £500,000 a year.

The operation is run by Pritchard Industrial Services Ltd and Mr Heseltine (above, right, outside the company's depot) carried out his inspection with Mr Peter Pritchard, chairman of the company (above, left, with a broom).

Mr Heseltine dismissed the

noisy crowd of chanting demonstrators as being no more than a publicity-seeking "handful of people from the extreme left, a professional rent-a-crowd". Ordinary people had greeted him in a friendly manner, he said.

About 150 civil servants walked out yesterday when Mrs Lynda Chalker, Under Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, arrived at the Exeter offices of the Department of Health and Social Security.

The protest was over the Government's pay offer to civil servants, ranging from nothing to 5 per cent. Mrs Chalker described the walk-out as silly.

Mr Christopher Chope, leader of Wandsworth Borough Council (above, centre), Police made one arrest as noisy demonstrators threw missiles and insults at Mr Heseltine. His attempts to speak to people in a street market were shouted down and he was quickly ushered into a dustcart cab.

Mr Heseltine emerged from the depot with egg-stains on his grey suit. He said: "I am very keen on local authorities checking the prices for their services to see if private enterprise can do things cheaper."

Mr Heseltine dismissed the

Paper fined £500 for contempt

By Frances Gibb

Mr David English, editor of the *Daily Mail*, who was found guilty of contempt of court last December over an article published during the Downs syndrome baby trial, was released without penalty from the High Court in London yesterday. Associated Newspapers, the proprietors, were fined a nominal £500.

But immediately after the ruling Mr English said: "This is a test case of a new Act of Parliament (the Contempt of Court Act) which I believed would tilt the balance towards greater freedom for the press to comment on these matters, even if there are court cases going on at the same time." Lord Kevlin QC, for the paper, was given leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

When publishing the article the newspaper believed the new Act permitted such comment, not possible before the Act was in force.

Lord Justice Watkins, sitting with Mr Justice Boreham and Mr Justice Glidewell, said Mr English could not have been personally responsible for the article, the author of which was Mr Malcolm Muggeridge, the writer and broadcaster.

The article, printed on October 15 during the trial of Dr Leonard Arthur, the consultant paediatrician who was found not guilty of attempted murder of the Downs' baby, was a declaration of support for a pre-life candidate standing in the Croydon, North West, by-election.

By implication the article clearly referred to the trial, Lord Justice Watkins said. When Mr English later saw the article he showed the judge the newspaper's lawyer, who assured him it could not be taken as referring to the trial.

Law Report, page 21

2,000 join strike in council job dispute

By Michael Horsnell

Two thousand employers of the London Borough of Islington, the first SDP-controlled local authority in the country, walked out yesterday in protest at the suspension of a member of the housing department.

The council's legal, housing and social services departments and libraries, swimming pools and recreational facilities, were closed by the one-day strike. More action may be taken next week.

The workforce, mostly members of the National and Local Government Officers' Association (NALGO), stopped work in support of 250 colleagues from the housing department who have been on strike for more than a week over the suspension of Robert Webb, who worked in the council house transfer section.

Mr Webb, aged 29, had been a temporary worker in the department for 15

months until the end of last year, when he was given a permanent £6,500-a-year job on the transfer staff. But when he arrived to start his new job on January 4 he was told that there was no job available after all in the section and was assigned back to his former department.

With union backing he reported for work in the transfer section five weeks later after fruitless negotiations and was suspended on full pay pending a disciplinary hearing.

Islington council has rent arrears of more than £1m, and last November, Mr John Stanley, Minister for Housing and Construction, warned the council that if better progress was not made in selling houses to tenants under the Government's legislation a commissioner would be sent in (A Correspondent writes).

Jail for drug pedlar helped by detectives

From Our Correspondent, Sheffield

A drugs pedlar who set up a lucrative empire with eight years yesterday.

Anthony Bashforth, and his mistress, Lesley Whyman, sold drugs to hundreds of customers, making thousands of pounds a week, and for much of the time South Yorkshire drug squad officers knew what was going on, the prosecution alleged at Sheffield Crown Court.

Mr David Savill, QC, for the prosecution, said Bashforth's 18-month reign, in which he peddled various drugs from a flat which he turned into a "near impenetrable fortress", ended only when Humberside officers were called in to investigate.

The judge was told that Bashforth and Whyman were both heavily addicted and would have died had they continued.

Employed, of Cyprus Avenue, Sheffield, admitted 27 years of selling drugs, and in addition to the prison sentence he was fined £1,000 and £1,000 for possession of drugs.

Whyman, aged 25, of Topham Drive, Sheffield, admitted four years of selling drugs, and in addition to the prison sentence she was fined £1,000 and £1,000 for possession of drugs.

'Private Eye' contempt case

The risk of exposing crime

By Marcel Berlins, Legal Correspondent

Mr Jack Lundin, who was acquitted yesterday of contempt of court, considers it an irony that his defence exposed crime and corruption can suffer a greater penalty than the criminals he exposed.

Even though he was acquitted, the various counsel investigations, including the possibility of imprisonment, have dominated his life for nearly three years. Had the National Union of Journalists and the magazine, *Private Eye*, been paid for his defence, he would have been thousands of pounds out of pocket as well. In contrast, two of the men he exposed were given suspended sentences, and their ordeal was over nearly a year ago.

In 1978 Mr Lundin, then a freelance journalist, followed up information that Ladup, the casino division of Ladbrokes, was using illegal methods to induce customers to gamble in its casinos.

Expensive gifts were showered on rich potential customers, gamblers were allowed to join casinos immediately, instead of having to wait for the statutory 48 hours, and people were paid commission to introduce gamblers to casinos, based on how much they lost.

The most significant illegality, which eventually resulted in Mr Lundin facing court proceedings, was that Ladup officials were noting the registration numbers of cars parked outside rival casinos and having the owners traced through the police computer in Nottingham. Those owners were then lavishly wooed to switch

to Ladbrokes' luxury casinos, the Ladbrokes Club, the Hertford Club, the Park Lane Club and the Park Tower.

As a direct result of Mr Lundin's disclosure in *Private Eye*, the police started investigating Ladbrokes' casino activities, originally led to the new Mr Lundin's source, but only he could give direct evidence about the document.

Mr Lundin declined on several occasions to reveal the identity of his source.

The law at that time was that a journalist did not have a legal right to refuse to reveal confidences.

Section 10 of the Contempt of Court Act, 1981, now gives a journalist the legal right to refuse to name a source, and not be guilty of contempt, unless it is established to the satisfaction of the court that disclosure is necessary in the interests of justice or national security, or for the prevention of disorder or crime.

In Sergeant Crowston's case the prosecution and the judge, Mr Justice Webster, felt it was essential that Mr Lundin reveal how and from whom he got the copy of the document, so that the absence of the original could be explained.

When Mr Lundin declined to answer the crucial question, the prosecution decided in the absence of the handwriting evidence, now not admissible, not to proceed against Sergeant Crowston.

The trial was stopped and Sergeant Crowston acquitted. It is doubtful whether Mr Lundin would have escaped contempt proceedings if the new Act had been in force.

Law Report, page 21

Anti-caning teacher fails to regain job

A teacher who was dismissed for approaching a protest group about the amount of corporal punishment in his school yesterday lost an action in the High Court to regain his job.

Mr Alan Corkish, aged 37, an English teacher, was dismissed last August by Sefton Education Authority, Merseyside, after expressing opposition to Corporal Punishment in his concern over the amount of caning at Litherland High School.

Mr Justice Cornyn in the High Court in London ruled that both the authority and the school governors had acted within their powers.

Mr Corkish, of Barons Hey, Cantril Farm, Liverpool, said later that he would appeal against the ruling.

Mr Corkish complained that the authority and the governors acted against natural justice in their handling of his suspension and subsequent dismissal. He felt he

had been given no chance to challenge witnesses against him.

The judge said: "The law gives considerable latitude to domestic tribunals and does not require of them the same strictness as a court of law."

Another complaint against Mr Corkish was that he intimidated colleagues at the school.

Mr Justice Cornyn said Mr Corkish had failed to disclose a criminal record when he applied for his job. The offences, for assault, breach of the peace and carrying an offensive weapon, took place on the Isle of Man and on three occasions, the judge said. Mr Corkish was

dismissed. But Mr Justice Cornyn criticised the governors and the authority for bringing the complaint of concealed criminal convictions and for varying the terms of Mr Corkish's suspension to take away his pay a month before his dismissal.

WORKERS ORDERED TO COURT

From Our Correspondent, Edinburgh

A judge yesterday ordered 141 Plessey workers who have been occupying the company's Bathgate factory to appear at the bar of the Court of Session, Edinburgh, on Friday to explain an alleged breach of a court order.

Lord Kincaid, at the Court of Session, granted the interim interdict to Plessey on February 4 to stop the occupation, which began on January 25 after an announcement that the factory, in West Lothian, was to close.

Mr Heriot Currie, counsel for Plessey, said yesterday that it was clear the workers were aware of the terms of the court order.

Lord Kincaid said that when the case came back to court he would need to be satisfied that the workers were aware of what had been going on before the court pronounced on any penalty.

BL's unique microwave link

BL is one of Britain's largest companies with manufacturing plants, offices and research departments spread across the country. A highly efficient communications system is obviously essential.

This is why BL has developed its own microwave communications network.

This network gives BL many advantages over the national telephone service and other commercial systems. For a start, it's cheaper to operate. And lines can be set up in a

matter of days. The system is fully compatible with BL computer operations in many different locations giving central computer access to a wide range of users.

It has been designed to be totally flexible and can link up with word processors, viewdata systems, electronic mail and other sophisticated communications devices.

And its saving BL more than a million pounds a year.

BL Fighting back

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Armed men hijack petrol load

A police hunt was launched early yesterday for two armed men after what is thought to be Britain's first petrol hijacking (Our Carlisle Correspondent writes). It was discovered when a passer-by seeing an abandoned Ford Cortina car in Scafeby, Cumbria, heard knocking from the boot. Inside was the driver of a Shell petrol tanker.

The driver Mr William Hardie, aged 51, who was unhurt, said he had been forced from his cab at shotgun point as he drove on to the M9 motorway near Grangemouth, Strathclyde, in Scotland on Thursday evening. The police later discovered the tanker, without its load of 6,000 gallons of petrol, worth £3,500 at wholesale prices, five miles from Scafeby.

Ex-MP fined for damage

James Sillars, the former Labour and Scottish Labour Party MP for Ayrshire, South, was fined £100 yesterday on a charge of wilful damage. Sillars, aged 44, now vice-chairman of the Scottish National Party, with two colleagues, was found guilty at Edinburgh Sheriff Court of breaking a window at the former Royal High School in Edinburgh, the building once earmarked for a Scottish Assembly.

Man is jailed over explosive

Joseph Pears aged 31, a plumber of Braxid Street, Manhill, Glasgow, said to be a high-ranking officer in the outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force, was jailed for six years at the Central Criminal Court yesterday for assisting in the possession of an explosive substance. Mr Roy Amior, for the prosecution said Pears and other Protestant extremists planned to send sodium chlorate weed killer, used in bomb-making, to terrorist groups in Belfast.

Gretna forge for sale

The old blacksmith's shop at Gretna Green, Dumfriesshire, where clandestine marriages were carried out for runaway couples, is for sale. The shop, with its marriage anvil, stands in the grounds of the eighteenth-century Gretna Hall, now a hotel, which is on the market at £300,000.

Besides the 50-bedroom hotel and 14 acres of grounds there are two chateaux, a museum and a gift shop.

Woman in fire killing freed

Joan Bence, aged 60, a civil servant, of Stanfield Road, Clapham, south London, was convicted of the manslaughter of her lodger, Mr Michael McCourt, aged 62, but freed at the Central Criminal Court yesterday. She was cleared of murder after setting light to him during a drunken argument, and given a two-year suspended sentence.

Prison murder trial delayed

The trial of three prison officers accused of murdering Mr Barry Prosser in Hinxton Green Jail, in Birmingham, in July, 1980, has been put back from next Tuesday to March 1 because lawyers in the case are engaged in another trial. Melvyn Jackson, aged 32, Eric Smith, aged 32, and Howard Price, aged 24, were committed for trial at Leicester Crown Court by a voluntary Bill of Indictment.

Oil search approved

Conoco (UK) has been given permission to explore for oil on a 250 square mile area on the West Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire borders, from Storrington, Henfield to Haslemere, Farnham and Aldershot.

Two Spanish generals contradict each other

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, Feb 19

The two generals accused of leading the attempt to overthrow democracy in Spain contradicted each other in their testimony when the coup trial opened before a military tribunal here today.

Lieutenant-General Jaime Milans del Bosch said he took part only because General Alfonso Armada had claimed to be transmitting orders from King Juan Carlos, the Commander-in-Chief.

General Armada, former deputy chief of the Army, denied all knowledge of the plot to overthrow the 1978 constitution and insisted he never invoked the King's name or allowed his own name to be used to obtain support for the plot.

Both generals said they had merely obeyed orders. General Milans, aged 66, said he followed General Armada because he was close to the King. General Armada, 61, claimed that on the night of the coup attempt he was trying to find a way of freeing, without bloodshed, the 350 MPs and full Cabinet held in Parliament by Lieutenant-Colonel Antonio Tejero.

The generals sat side by side as their testimony — based on declarations to investigating magistrates and a subsequent confrontation with each other — was read today by officers acting as court clerks.

All 33 accused, three Army generals, 29 other officers and a single civilian, absent today with heart trouble in a

Madrid clinic, had pleas entered by defence counsel that the charge of military rebellion be dismissed on the grounds their actions constituted no offence under the code of military justice or could lead to any civilian responsibility.

Counsel for most of the captains and lieutenants also invoked obedience to higher orders. The military prosecutor is seeking 30 years' imprisonment for each of the accused.

In an opening statement, the prosecution claimed the chief plotters had sought to use the shock of the violent seizure of Parliament in session to suppress democracy by force.

The two generals disagreed on what the prosecution described as a key witness, General Milans claimed General Armada had told him at the meeting of a conversation during which the King had said he wished to change the Prime Minister but was unable to find anyone suitable and wanted to find a way to control Spain's difficult situation.

The Queen allegedly was for a military man as Prime Minister but the King wanted a civilian. General Milans alleged General Armada told him he could make discreet use of this information. General Milans said: "Like everyone else, I thought that

all or part was known to the King."

General Armada described the alleged conversation as pure invention: "I never authorized my own name and, above all else, never involved the King. I never had any clandestine meetings with any military figures or politicians." He believed in a political road for Spain and opposed violent actions of the kind staged by Colonel Tejero.

General Armada admitted meeting several politicians, including Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, who was being voted in as Prime Minister at the moment of the seizure of Parliament. He maintained that these earlier conversations, though about politics, had not contained a proposal for a Government which he would head.

Of his conduct during the coup night, General Armada claimed he had been authorized to seek, as a "personal formula", negotiations with Colonel Tejero and to allow him to leave the country. His aim throughout that night had been to avoid, at all costs, dividing the Spanish Army.

General Milans admitted receiving three calls during the night of February 23 from the King. He emphasized he had obeyed the King's order to withdraw his troops, in the second call made in the early hours of February 24, and to plead with Colonel Tejero in the third call to give up occupying Parliament.

Weinberger wooing Mid East friends

From Mohsin Ali, Washington, Feb 19

Mr Casper Weinberger, the United States Defence Secretary, whose recent controversial trip to Arab countries was defended by President Reagan yesterday, said yesterday that the United States needed to make friends in the Middle East without weakening its alliance with Israel.

"I think the only way we can have a long peace in the Middle East region is for the United States to be perceived as having a policy which extends the hand of friendship to several countries," he told the Los Angeles World Affairs Council.

"We need several friends in the Middle East. We are not saying that we can afford to ignore the desirability of friendship and support wherever it may exist."

Mr Weinberger's recent tour and his exploratory talks in Amman, Jordan, on the possible sale of F16 fighter aircraft and mobile Hawk anti-aircraft missiles led to reports that there were strong policy differences between him and Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State. The reports also caused grave concern in Israel, which strongly opposes the sale of advanced weapons to Jordan and other Arab states.

President Reagan yesterday said that Mr Weinberger and Mr Haig had coordinated their activities and there was no difference in policy between them.

The President also said there was no change in the United States' approach towards Israel and its dedication to the welfare of the Jewish state.

He said that Mr Weinberger's visit to Jordan was not correctly portrayed in some exaggerated reports. The President reiterated that Mr Weinberger did not bring back any request from King Hussein to buy American weapons.

Mr Weinberger said in Los Angeles that he would assure Mr Moshe Arens, the Israeli Ambassador in Washington, that the United States had no intention of cutting into the alliance between the two countries.

Reacting to persistent American press reports of a feud between him and Mr Haig, Mr Weinberger later said that such stories were "just plain wrong" and that he had the utmost admiration for the Secretary of State. "These Jews again to have been a tremendous effort to seek daylight or differences between us and I cannot see any."

Mr Palm Beach: Mr Jimmy Carter, the former President, said that the Reagan Administration for having "a confused policy on the Middle East" (AP reports).

Mr Carter told members of the National United Jewish Appeal, a non-profit organization that raises funds for social-welfare programmes in Israel: "Now, I'm sorry to say that American policy on the Middle East is very confused." It is very difficult, he said, for our Arab friends to understand what is going to happen.

Schmidt foresees unrest over American interest rates

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, Feb 19

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, has warned America that the world economic crisis can lead to economic, social and political unrest in Europe.

In an interview with *The New York Times* he criticized the expected United States budget deficit which, he said, would probably keep up the highest interest rates and worsen the economic problems of the rest of the world. If significant steps were not taken in the next two years, every nation could be hit by depression.

Europe stood in greater danger than the Americans had so far realized, he told *New York Times* journalists. "The fabric of the economy and society is endangered by the deep recession since the middle 30s." And the danger was mounting. "What I fear is economic and social and therefore political unrest: political destabilization as a consequence of economic destabilization."

The Chancellor has often complained in recent months about the damage that the American budget and high interest rate policies are doing to the economies of Europe and the rest of the world. But this was the first time he has publicly given so clear a warning that his country has social and political consequences.

His forebodings reflect a peculiarly German concern. The Germans have never forgotten the recession and mass unemployment between the First and Second World Wars which contributed to the rise of Nazism. The Second World War and the collapse and division of Germany. Even now, 40 years later, many Germans are not fully confident that their young democracy could survive a similar test.

The Chancellor advised the United States to reduce its deficit by cutting spending, raising taxes or a mixture of both, but he said, "It's not my business to interfere so

deeply in other people's economic behaviour." "Right now, I believe in the 'riches economy' in the world is at the same time the greatest danger of capitalism. This is an unhealthy state. Capital was not being invested. Instead it was being put into New York to profit from the high interest rates. These rates have been driving your economy, they have the rest of the world even more."

In a talk yesterday to a very different audience — workers at a mail order firm in Nuremberg — the Chancellor said, however, that West Germany's economic situation was "not at all black" compared to that of other countries.

He also forecast an increase in exports but said much depended on interest rates. The greatest contribution to an upswing would be the reduction of interest rates to about seven or eight per cent.

The Chancellor made it clear that he intended to resist all pressure from the United States to scrap the huge gas-pipeline deal between the Soviet Union and West German and other European industries. "Other people can beat about it as much as they like. It will go ahead."



Herr Schmidt criticized budget deficit

The Government's most important goal he explained, was peace. "I believe in political compromise and mutual understanding in foreign policy." West Germany must try and keep the balance between East and West.

In the *New York Times* interview, he repeated his assurance that NATO's deployment of its new medium range missiles would go ahead if there were no progress at the Soviet-American missile negotiations in Geneva. He also tried to dispel impressions in the United States that the European allies had lost the will to defend themselves.

"That's ridiculous," that Europe doesn't want to defend itself. This is an American fantasy," he declared.

The West German Government acted swiftly today to quell speculation that Herr Schmidt is planning a major Cabinet reshuffle.

A report by the West German news agency DPA, which said Herr Schmidt was thinking of replacing at least four Cabinet ministers, was dismissed by the chief government spokesman, Herr Kurt Becker, as "pure invention".

The agency, quoting informed sources, said the reshuffle was possible in early summer. It said Count Otto von Lamsdorff, the Economics Minister, and Herr Josef Erd, the Agriculture Minister, both members of the Free Democratic Party, were likely to be replaced along with their Social Democratic Party colleagues, Frau Antje Huber and the Health Minister.

DPA said the plan foresees Herr Schmidt, the Defence Minister, taking over as Social Democrat parliamentary floor leader from the veteran politician, Herr Herbert Wehner, who is 75. Herr Aepel's replacement as minister "would" be Herr Hans-Jürgen Wischnewski.



UN envoy's Gulf peace initiative

New York, Feb 19. — Mr Olof Palme of Sweden (above) will leave next Wednesday for his second mission to end the war between Iran and Iraq. Mr Palme is the special representative for Iran and Iraq of Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Mr Palme, who is accompanied by Señor Diego Cordovez of Ecuador, the United Nations Undersecretary-General.

Mr Palme, a former Prime Minister of Sweden, began his peace mission to the two countries as special representative to Dr Kurt Waldheim, Señor Pérez de Cuellar's predecessor.

He visited both countries in November 1980, and in January, February and June 1981. He gave both Governments a confidential paper on his last trip, according to the United Nations. — AP.

A week-long hunger strike by Iranian students in Britain and nine other countries ended yesterday, after Señor Pérez de Cuellar had sent a message expressing concern about the situation in Iran, and saying that he had spoken about it to Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations (Edward Morfirer writes).

The students, supporters of the left-wing Muslim "People's Mujahedin Organization", hundreds of whose members have been executed in Iran in recent months, were calling on the United Nations "for stronger protests and action against the wave of summary executions and arrests which have swept the country since last summer."

In Britain, 40 students staged their protest outside the United Nations information office in Stratford Place, W1. On Thursday, a group of four Labour MPs from the Tribune Group, including the former Employment Secretary, Mr Albert Booth, came to express support for them.

In New York, students chained themselves to the Statue of Liberty and suspended a 110ft banner from the top.

Support was also given to the students by Mr Hedayatollah Matine-Daftary, the grandson of Mohammed Mossadeq, and leader of the National Democratic Front, who came to Europe last December, after two and a half years in hiding in Tehran.

Mr Matine-Daftary, who is also vice-president of the Iranian Bar Association, said the regime had taken over the premises of the association, confiscated its records, library and funds and arbitrarily arrested its president, secretary and other senior members.

Why Plenum is delayed

Battle for the soul of Polish party

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Feb 19

Waiting for Godot, it seems, has nothing on the prolonged mysterious wait for the plenary session of the Polish Communist Party's Central Committee.

For weeks now, party officials have been hinting that a meeting — the first since the imposition of martial law — is imminent, that the party's policy-making body is ready to undergo a public catharsis.

But while the lights burn late at the Central Committee Building in Jerezelski Avenue, and the rumours of an impending sprout at will, there has been nothing but a stubborn, official silence. Preparations are under way, that much is admitted, but the proposed dates now seem to have slipped.

Delay, runs the rule of thumb in Eastern Europe, means dissension and there is eager speculation about some ideological blood-letting.

In fact, the session is likely to be rather quiet, for there is still a certain amount of face left to save, a need to convey a credible image to the Polish people at a time when the Communist Party is in the popular estimation somewhat below the standing of militiamen and corrupt shopkeepers. But there is evidently a struggle for influence in the Central Committee and this may, more by accident than design, bring about changes in the top leadership.

There are two theories circulating among party activists, both are based on the assumption that the Central Committee which took shape at the emergency party congress last July, is a largely inexperienced body. Then the mood of the Central Committee was against bureaucracy and local politicians in favour of men and women closer to the workers.

About 40 of the 200 full members were also Solidarity members, an increased number were Army officers (10 instead of six) and private farmers and teachers were particularly well represented. To some degree this make-up is reflected in the Politburo elected by the Central Committee.

This Central Committee voted strongly in favour of General Wojciech Jaruzelski and his policies last summer. This vote was accompanied by a signal that the party wanted to cut away the extremes, both reformist and hardliner. The first theory is, therefore, that the Central Committee's basic allegiance to a policy of moderate "central-

ist" communism is unchanged, but that it is losing patience with the ability of the present leadership to fulfil the promises of last summer. The Central Committee, this theory states, was in favour of General Jaruzelski because he seemed to be both outside of the apparatus and therefore pure and of (that is, a loyal, pro-Soviet Marxist). But, since taking over as First Party Secretary from Mr Stanislaw Kania and since using military power to bolster his policies, he has lost ground.

There may, therefore, be some rebellion on the general's position, along the lines that he has too many hats — head of the Military Council, Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, party chief — and should hand one over to somebody else.

But this is extremely unlikely to lead to the toppling of General Jaruzelski as the Central Committee believes the official line that Poland is on the brink of civil war, nor is he likely to cede the position of party chief before the lifting of martial law. That would devalue the military takeover which was carried out partly to give the party a breathing space.

The second theory thus seems the more probable. This states that General Jaruzelski's position will not be seriously questioned but that his line of moderate conciliation will be challenged. Those who argue this within the party say that the mood of the Central Committee has changed over the past six months, that there is a new breed of provincial administrator who wants to stamp out all ideological deviation.

If, in doubt, take no risks, swear allegiance to Marxism-Leninism, hit hard at Solidarity, a non-profit organization that seeks daylight or differences between us and I cannot see any."

It has been said that there is a battle for the soul of Polish communism, or more precisely, for the leadership of the party; but neither of these matters will be resolved at the plenum. In the meantime, the purge of party activists and the trave heads will continue, and so will the fight against the entrenched party apparatus that blocked earlier attempts at reform.

Africans acclaim the Pope as a superstar

From Godfrey Morrison, Libreville, Feb 19

When he dismissed the alien ideologies of Marx, Lenin, and Mao Tse-tung as "just talk".

Throughout his African tour, during which the Pope has visited Nigeria, Benin, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea, he has advised his African listeners to avoid foreign ideologies, particularly materialist ones.

Even allowing for the public relations propensities of the Vatican scribes, in eight days he managed 35 speeches or sermons — it is quite obvious that Pope John Paul has a genuine affection for Africa, perhaps engendered by his first visit here in 1980, and perhaps encouraged by the Pope in a farewell speech

Paul VI, who called it *novus ordo* — the new order of the natural and spontaneous nature of the Africans' hating for religions of all kinds.

Pope John Paul remains every inch a Pole and, despite the exotic surroundings he has lived through in the last week — Masses punctuated by tribal dancing, drumming and singing — when talking about the rights of workers yesterday he mentioned a long list of what they should be accorded, ending with the words "the freedom of association of trades unions".

The love shown to him by young people is entirely reciprocated by the pontiff.

He seems to take a fairly pessimistic view of the modern world, but speaking to young people here he said: "The generations who are coming along are beginning to feel the emptiness and indeed the absurdity, of a civilization which allows itself to shut itself into that sad paradise of the consumer society."

Throughout, the Pope and his entourage have emphasized the predominantly religious nature of his African visit, but he has not shied from delicate political questions.

In Nigeria and Gabon, two countries where oil has brought great wealth which has not been widely distributed, he has spoken

out strongly in favour of social justice and against conspicuous consumption. One thing the Pope has proved is the astonishing strength of the faith.

The Pope has also proved his "superstar" quality, a vulgar term which, perhaps, illustrates that West Africans like people elsewhere in the world, demoralized by current political and economic difficulties, turn readily to a man who brings a non-materialistic message of hope.

He clearly hopes to return to Africa, a continent where he has twice received unanimous welcomes. On leaving here today he said: "Mon adieu d'aujourd'hui n'est qu'un au revoir."

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Nkomo's allies to resign

Salisbury. — The two remaining Patriotic Front (PF) members of the Zimbabwe Cabinet appear to be staying loyal to their leader, Mr Joshua Nkomo, who was resigning from office by Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister. (Stephen Taylor writes).

Mr Clement Muchachisi, the senior PF member of the Government remaining after the mid-week purge, announced yesterday that he was resigning. Mr Daniel Ngwenya, the Minister of Roads and the other PF minister, is also expected to resign.

Mr Nkomo, who has said the party would start planning for the next elections in 1985, was still thought to be in Salisbury, but likely to return to Bulawayo at the weekend.

There were no reports of violence yesterday, but sources in Bulawayo said the city was tense. Fighting between rival Nkomo and Mugabe supporters appeared distinctly possible this weekend.

Sphinx's beard unruffled

Mr Abdul Hamid Radwan, Egypt's Minister of Culture, has left Britain without the piece of the Sphinx's beard which he came to London to request from the British Museum.

He made no formal application for its return, but it is understood that he held preliminary talks with museum officials about a possible eventual restoration to Egypt, perhaps on permanent loan.

Schild kidnap charges

Rome. — Cross-examination of witnesses began at the trial in Cagliari, Sardinia, of 35 people accused of two murders and several kidnappings, including those of Mr Rolf Schild, a British engineer, his wife and daughter. (Peter Nichols writes).

The hearings are expected to last about a year. Twenty of the accused are specifically charged with responsibility for the kidnapping of the Schild family on August 25, 1979. Members of the Schild family are expected to give evidence.

Icelandic leader in Oxford

President Vigdís Finnbogadóttir of Iceland ended her official visit to Britain in Oxford, where she visited the John Radcliffe Maternity Hospital, the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre and Green College.

She is staying privately in London over the weekend. The Foreign Office said "the success of her visit reflects the traditional friendship which exists between our two countries."

US advisers may get rifles

Washington. — United States military advisers in El Salvador may soon be allowed to carry M16 automatic rifles in the field under a change in regulations being considered by the Reagan Administration. Administration sources said that a new rule was expected very soon, although no decision has been made, according to *The Washington Post*.

Such a rule would probably be couched in vague language, like letting advisers carry "personal" weapons such as an M16 under certain conditions. Current rules limit military advisers to carrying only sidearms.

But the White House and the Pentagon are concerned about the possibility that unarmed advisers could come under guerrilla fire and considering changing the rules in order to give them more protection.

\$2m suit filed in rig disaster

New Orleans. — The widow and children of one of the 84 people believed dead in Monday's Ocean Ranger oil rig disaster have filed a \$2m (£1.1m) suit here against Mobil Oil and Odeco. Mobil is the first court action connected with the accident. Odeco, which has its headquarters here, is the owner of Ocean Ranger. Mobil leased the rig. Investigations into the disaster have been started by the United States, Canada and Newfoundland.

Spanish hotels face World Cup strike

Madrid. — Madrid's hotel workers are threatening a general strike during the World Cup football competition in June in pursuit of an 11 per cent pay rise, a reduction in working hours to a 40-hour week and two consecutive days off a week.

Editor arrested

Lusaka. — Mr Naphy Nyahungwe, editor-in-chief of *The Times of Zambia*, has been charged with publishing false information about a report that a lorry-load of weapons had been stolen from a barracks in Lusaka.

EEC exports dispute

Strasbourg fury at vote delay on Soviet sales

From George Clark, Strasbourg, Feb 19

Amid protests and repeated points of order, the European Parliament was today "counted out" when it was about to vote on a controversial resolution which accused the EEC Commission of failing to restrict food exports to Russia during 1980 as part of Western reprisals against the invasion of Afghanistan.

The Conservative group accused the Socialists of deliberately staying away so that there was not a required 145 members for a quorum.

The debate turned on a dispute between the figures of exports prepared by the Commission and those produced by the budgetary control committee of the Parliament, figures accepted as valid by the Conservatives.

Herr Heinrich Aigner, West German chairman of the Council of Ministers agreed that food exports should be kept down to an average of the total over the previous three years, and that there should be no increase to replace the supplies cut off by the United States. But in fact there was a huge increase in exports, he said.

Those of wheat increased from 5,000 tons in 1979 to 500,000 tons in 1980, beef and veal went up from 22,000 tons to 97,000 tons, and sugar from 225,000 tons to 833,000. The figures were official Commission statistics, he said. It was clear that the Commission had been unable to control prices or amounts. It was like a football that had been kicked around by trade and market forces.

Everyone knew that a Frenchman who ran an export firm had a virtual monopoly of trade between the Community and Russia, Herr Aigner said. When asked how he had managed to become a multi-millionaire so quickly, the Frenchman said: "Through the stupidity of my trading partners."

Herr Aigner said that the director-general of the agricultural division of the Commission was in fact the main trading partner of this company. "We know that on one single deal of 25,000 tons of wheat there was a straight profit of 30 million units of account (about £15m) and that gives you some idea of

the speculative profits that could be made", he said.

Mr Brian Ford, Conservative MEP for London, West, complained about the performance of the Commission and the impossibility of defending its actions to electors. He said Mr Roy Jenkins, the former president of the Commission, would have had difficulty in explaining why British taxpayers' money should be used to provide cheap food for Russians.

Herr Ulrich Irmer, for the Liberals, said that the huge subsidy provided by European taxpayers was actually being used through these trade deals to finance the Communist Party in France.

Mr Alan Tyrell, Conservative MEP for London, East, said that when Olympic athletes and others were making personal sacrifices to the invasion of Afghanistan, the EEC Commission was dismally failing to support the actions of the free world. "It was either incompetence or laziness, or a combination of the two", he said; and the budgetary control committee would carry on its investigations.

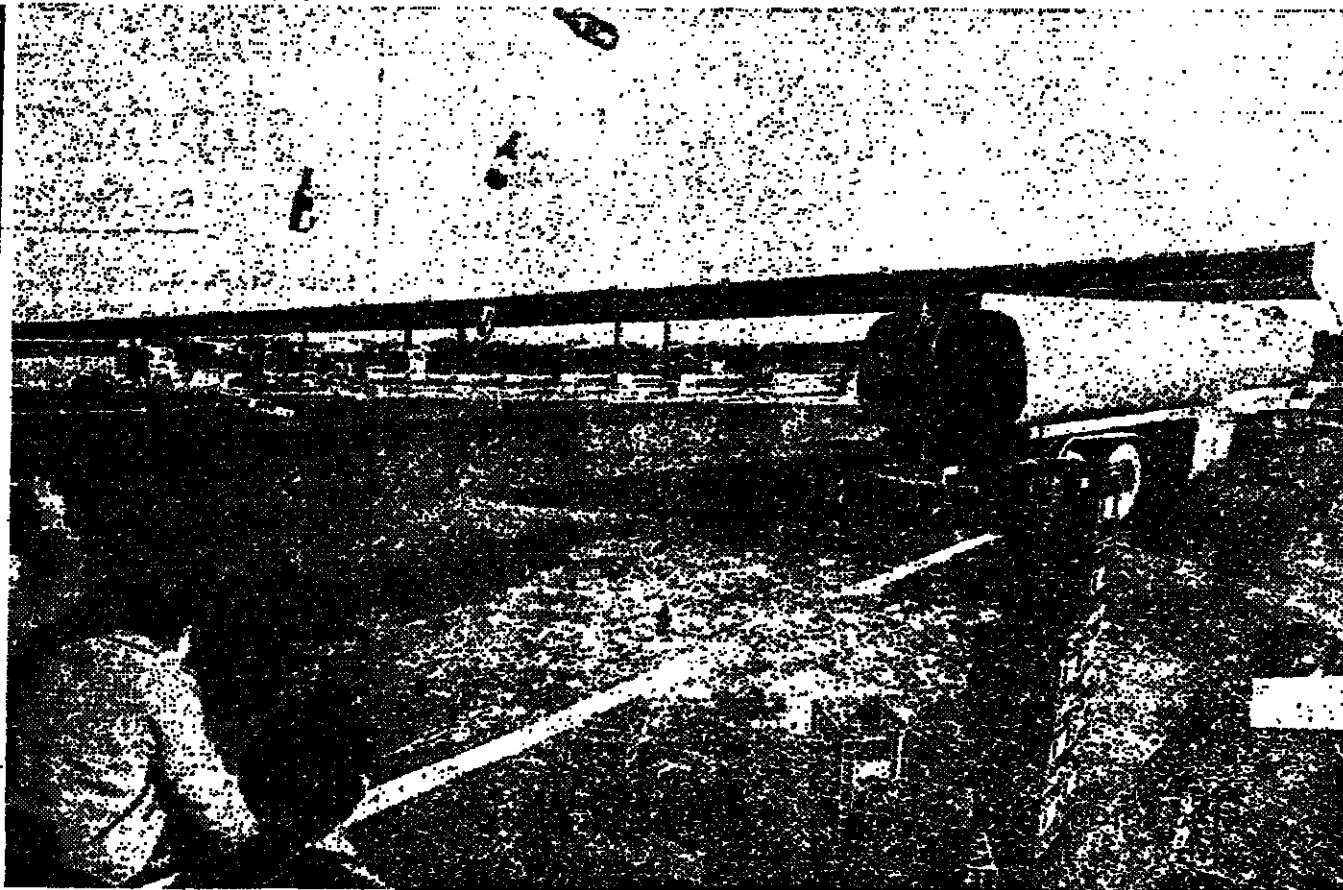
Communist and other speakers complained that the committee was engaged in a cold war with Russia and that the figures were open to challenge.

Mr Paul Dalsager, EEC Commissioner for Agriculture, made a spirited defence of his predecessors. He said the restriction on exports lasted from January 1980 to April 1981, and it must be realized that in the first few months existing export licences were in effect and supplies were in the pipeline. These could not be stopped.

Products most concerned in the embargo were cereals. "During the period of the embargo we issued no licences for wheat whatsoever to the Soviet Union", he said.

For butter exports, the average had been 70,000 tons over three years, and the actual figure in 1979 was 135,000 tons. But exports in 1980 were 100,000 tons.

The vote on the budgetary committee's motion is now put off to the March session when the debate can be resumed.



One for the road: Angry French wine producers smash bottles of cheap imported wine after seizing three Italian lorries at Saint Jean de Vedas yesterday

'Coup plot' foiled in Nigeria

Lagos, Feb 19.—Nigerian newspapers reported today that a coup plot had been foiled, and a government statement said a civilian and some soldiers had been charged with inciting troops to mutiny.

A statement issued by the office of the President said a Nigerian businessman, an army officer and number of soldiers had been arrested and charged with "conspiring to commit a felony by the incitement of soldiers to commit a mutinous act".

The *National Concord*, which is close to the ruling National Party, under the headline "coup bid", said the businessman had handed out large sums of money to a major and several soldiers to overthrow the civilian government.

The government-owned *New Nigerian* said the businessman used to get big contracts under the previous military government but was not obtaining any from the civilians. The newspaper said there was no evidence of any disaffection of ideological deviation by members of the armed forces.—Reuters and AFP

Deng pessimistic on US relations

Peking.—Mr Deng Xiaoping, the Vice Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party, said that Sino-American relations are not good, and that the United States was mistaken if it thought that China needed it, according to Chinese sources.

The 77-year-old leader made the comments during an hour-long meeting with an American engineering professor, K. S. Mu, vice-president of Ebasco Services International.

This was Mr Deng's second public appearance and his first with an American since Thursday, when he ended a five-week holiday and inspection tour.

Mr Deng, who is known for a dry sense of humour, laughed off rumours that circulated during his absence from public view. He said he enjoyed speculation that his enemies wanted to shoot him, and added that he had been hit, figuratively speaking, by a few bullets over the years, but had survived. Mr Deng has been purged and rehabilitated three times.

Speaking of Chinese politics, Mr Deng confirmed that he has withdrawn from the

"first line" to the "second line" since the sixth Central Committee plenum last June, and how plays a less active part in daily decision-making. Chinese sources say that he plays an important policy-making role, and concerns himself with political strategy. Mr Deng confirmed that he is interested in the "big picture", and does not want to be bothered with small matters.

During the sixth plenum, Mr Deng said, everyone wanted him to become party chairman, but he declined, saying that he did not want the job. His political ally Mr Hu Yaobang, became chairman, and is carrying out Mr Deng's policies of political, bureaucratic and economic reforms.

Mr Deng, who also is the driving force behind China's modernization programme, said that by the year 2000 he hoped that every Chinese would have an annual income of about £400.

He said his main goal now was to reorganize the central bureaucracy, and that he hoped it could be accomplished during the first half of 1982.—AP

PORTUGAL FACES MORE STOPPAGES

Lisbon, Feb 19.—Portugal's main trade union grouping met today to work out a strike after the pro-Soviet Communist Party unveiled plans to step up labour unrest in order to bring down the Government.

The meeting of the group, most of whose leaders are Communist, was the first since a general strike last Friday. The Government claimed that the stoppage was linked with an alleged plot against democracy.

Lisbon public transport was disrupted today by a 24-hour strike by river ferries and the underground system.

The government laid on fleets of private coaches, the *Senhor Alvaro Cunhal*, the Portuguese Communist Party leader, told a party rally last night that strikes were necessary and insisted it was vital to bring down the Government of *Senhor Francisco Pinto Balsemão* before a forthcoming revision of the constitution.

Senhor Cunhal said his party would demand a parliamentary debate on what he described as Government claims that the general strike was part of a coup attempt.

Reuters.

Clean living gets credit for drop in coronaries

From Piers Ackerman New York, Feb 19

Coronary heart disease has declined steeply in the United States, Canada, Australia and Finland over the past two decades, possibly because of relatively poor health education, an American professor claims.

Dr William Kannel, professor and chairman of the department of preventive medicine and epidemiology at the Boston University Medical Centre, believes that the decline may be due to preventive measures or changes in habits.

He says in an article in the current issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* that it is encouraging to believe that a combination of changes in diet, smoking, treatment of hypertension, and increased physical activity has contributed to the decline in the United States.

In England and Wales, where there has been much scepticism, scientific doubt and apathy about preventive efforts involving diet and vigorous control of hypertension, mortality figures had remained depressingly constant.

"Among middle-aged men in 1968, the chances of a coronary heart disease death in an American was 40 per cent higher than that of an Englishman, while by 1976 the American risk had actually declined to below that of the English," Dr Kannel writes.

It is of interest that the only segment of the English population that have improved their mortality are the higher social classes and physicians.

Dr Kannel emphasizes that the causes of the decline in the United States and some other high mortality areas remains speculative but that it is reassuring to consider that small changes in behaviour might have produced the large health dividends.

□ Britain lagging: Most British doctors accept that health education has been less successful than in America and that they have failed to persuade the public of the need to stop smoking, to exercise more and to eat less. (Our Medical Correspondent writes.)

The evidence that the treatment of mild to moderate hypertension reduces the incidence of coronary heart disease as well as of cerebral vascular disease has only recently been accepted and this delay must have affected the mortality figures here.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

JAL pilot's 'dangerous' manoeuvres

Tokyo.—A preliminary report on the Japan Airlines crash in which 24 people died in the Bay of Tokyo in February 9 said that the pilot had carried out dangerous manoeuvres during a flight on the previous day.

The report, by the Transport Ministry's Aviation Accident Investigation Committee, also confirmed that the pilot, Captain Seiji Katagiri, had behaved strangely as he brought the DC-8 in to land before the crash.

"Captain, stop it, please", were co-pilot's final words on the flight recorder.

Experts believe that the pilot put two engines into reverse thrust just as the plane came into land, braking it sharply.

Sikkim ruler's funeral pyre

Gangtok, India.—About 20,000 Sikkimese attended the funeral of the former Chogyal (ruler) of Sikkim, Palden Thondup Namgyal, who steadfastly opposed his kingdom's annexation by India in 1975.

The coffin, draped in the former national flag of Sikkim, was carried more than two miles in a slow procession from the royal monastery in Gangtok to the hilltop cremation site where it was burnt on a funeral pyre 8,000 ft up.

Body from sunk frigate found

Cape Town.—The body of one of 16 seamen missing after the South African Navy frigate *President Kruger* sank has been found, but hopes have dwindled for the survival of the others.

The 2,300-ton vessel collided with the supply ship *Tafelberg* during a gale off the Cape of Good Hope.

Ambush kills 20

Delhi.—Secessionists killed 20 Indian soldiers today in an ambush in India's north-eastern state of Manipur. Five other soldiers were wounded, one of them seriously.

Metro death toll

Moscow.—Between 15 and 30 people are now believed to have died when the escalator in a Moscow metro station gave way during the rush hour on Wednesday.

The early Seventies will go down in history as one of the most turbulent, disruptive and dangerous periods ever known to mankind.

Russia taunted China, East provoked West, the Arabs plunged the world's economies into chaos with a dizzying surge

in the price of oil, Watergate burst and America impeached her own President.

At one stage, while the Yom Kippur War raged in the Middle East, nuclear conflict between the super-powers seemed inevitable.

International brinkmanship reached

a level that made the Bay of Pigs look like a garden-party.

Henry Kissinger was, quite literally, right in the middle of it all.

Throughout the period, he appeared to be constantly getting on or off airplanes. Arriving and departing—

America's Secretary of State—"the world's best travelled, glorified messenger-boy."

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Kissinger played a central and indispensable role. As mediator, aggressor, tactician, strategist and diplomat.

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The serialisation of "Years of upheaval", the second volume of his memoirs, starts tomorrow in the Sunday Times.


It's a brilliantly written, striking cascade of anecdotes, vignettes, dramatic highlights and personal portraits of the great, not-so-great and just plain notorious.

And although it cannot single-handedly explain the world we live in today, it does, more than anything else, put it all into perspective.

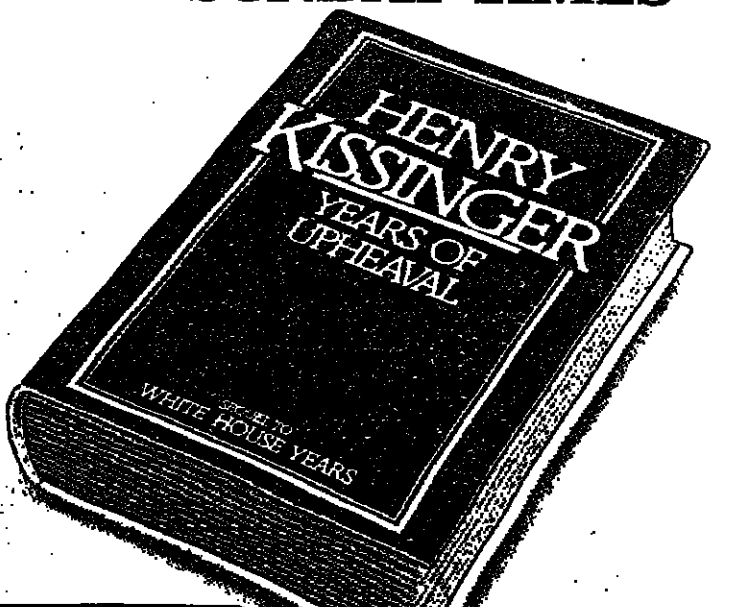
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THE SUNDAY TIMES

The men who shaped the world we live in.



By the middleman they couldn't afford to cut out.



The nuclear threat to Hardy's heath

by Christopher Booker

The untameable, Ishmael-like thing, Egdon now was, it always had been. Civilization was now its enemy.

The Return of the Native

If outstanding tracts of Britain's landscape were protected by "listing" in the same way as our most valued buildings (and there is no logical reason why they should not be), a prime candidate for Grade One status would undoubtedly be the few thousand surviving acres of heathland in south-east Dorset, immortalized by Hardy as Egdon Heath.

This strange rolling waste of heather and gorse, stretching some 10 miles inland from the shores of Poole Harbour, might well be considered to meet the criteria of a Grade One building. It is irreplaceable and of such national importance that it must not be destroyed "except for overwhelming reasons".

Pervaded by the haunting, timeless quality captured by Hardy in *The Return of the Native*, these low, furze-covered hills and valleys round the little Saxon-walled town of Wareham are prized by naturalists as containing a range of birds, flowers, reptiles and insects found nowhere else in the country.

In recent decades this unique ecological island has been subjected to an unrelenting assault, as hundreds of acres a year have been taken for building and agricultural land, clay and gravel digging, oil exploration, military training and afforestation.

But today, Hardy's "Egdon" faces a new threat so dramatic that it raises the whole question of the heath's survival. For within 10 years this remote and wild tract of country could be dominated by the largest man-made structure in southern England, a massive complex of buildings visible for up to 30 or 40 miles.

Sometime in the next few months, the Central Elec-

tricity Generating Board will present Energy Secretary Nigel Lawson with their final choice for the site of the huge new nuclear power station they plan to maintain electricity supplies to south west England from the 1990s.

The CEBG recently narrowed down its original 50 sites to a final shortlist of three (one in Cornwall and two in Dorset) and there seem good grounds for local suspicion that the odds-on favourite is now a site in the middle of the Dorset heathland, just north of the village of Winfrith Newburgh.

The Winfrith site is the furthest from centres of population, the others being Luxulyan, near St. Austell, and Herberly, just behind the Chesil Bank near Weymouth. A small experimental reactor has already stood there for 20 years, and the main part of the site would present no ownership problems as it already belongs to the Atomic Energy Authority.

But Winfrith does present one technical problem which does not apply to other nuclear power station sites. It is so far from the sea that a PWR (or Pressurised Water Reactor) here would require a cluster of special, gaseous cooling towers. Ducting even the main reactor building, itself 230 feet high, there would either be four or five of these vast towers, each 375 feet high (slightly less than Centre Point), or just two, 540 feet high — which would rank them, apart from TV masts, among the highest structures in Europe.

In addition, a pair of huge pipes would be needed to carry water to and from the sea, running up over the hill of Purbeck to the south and out to sea via a large pumping station set into the cliff next to the famous beauty spot of Durdle Door.

But what concerns the local alliance of parish and district councils, landowners and professional



Woolbridge Manor, where Tess of the D'Urbervilles spent her ill-fated honeymoon night with Angel Clare, as it would be overshadowed by the proposed Winfrith nuclear power station at a distance of three miles.

naturalists which has formed to fight the choice of Winfrith is not just the visual aspects of the scheme, but its potentially devastating impact on the region's unique range of wildlife.

The power station would rise on a huge concrete platform over the remote valley of the Tadnoll brook, itself one of the few remaining habitats in southern England of otters, and a breeding ground for the salmon of the Frome river to the north.

Much of the valley has been designated a Grade One SSSI (or Site of Special Scientific Interest) by the Nature Conservancy, for its concentration of such nationally rare species as the Dartford Warbler, Smooth Snakes, Sand Lizards, Natterjack Toads, Pale Butterflies and the beautiful Marsh Gentian, which grows here in profusion.

Indeed, the importance of Winfrith Heath may be gauged from comparing its species-count with that of the totally protected National Nature Reserve at Hartland Moor a few miles to the east. This shows that the two areas (probably alone in the Dorset heathland) contain an almost identical list of mammals, birds and reptiles, while Winfrith actually contains a higher species-count of plants and butterflies.

But the full significance of this loss of habitat can only be seen in the context of the scale on which the remainder of the Dorset heathland has been disappearing in recent decades.

A series of studies collected by the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology at Wareham has shown that, since the middle of the eighteenth century, when it covered 150 square miles, the heathland of the Poole Basin has lost no less than 85 per cent of its total area.

Fifty years ago the total area was still some 70 square miles. By 1960 this figure had fallen to 40, and it is now only just above 20 — much of it in pockets so small as to be of no ecological significance, or as semi-suburban land around Bournemouth (for example, 1,000 acres of Canford Heath).

Of the three major stretches of heath which Hardy agglomerated as Egdon, Puddletown Heath is now covered by conifers, Bovington is an army tank testing range and gravel pits, and only Winfrith remains largely intact — as a crucial "wildlife reservoir" to maintain the overall supply of rare species which can easily be wiped out in isolated pockets by local disasters such as the widespread heath fires of 1976, and need a continuous chain of "islands" to survive.

"The loss of Winfrith, would be ecologically disastrous," says Barrie Pearson, a scientist at the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology. "Not least because it would remove a vital 'island' from that chain — and the effect of its loss could well be seen over a much wider area than just that directly affected by the power station."

The startling truth is that, far from being considered as a unique national asset, easily the greater part of what survives of the Dorset heathland is under no statutory or planning protection whatever. Much more obviously than in Hardy's time, civilization has become its enemy.

Quite apart from the vast acreage taken for forestry, ball-clay digging or a dozen other uses, thousands more acres have been "reclaimed" to provide agricultural land of the most dubious economic value simply because of the systems of government and EEC grants which hands out subsidies to farmers for drainage, without any necessity to show that a useful purpose has been served.

If the CEBG's power station proposal serves any useful purpose (and I suspect that the volume of protest over any of the three short-listed sites will eventually persuade them to place the new power station at Hinkley Point in Somerset), it may be to focus long-overdue national attention on the need to preserve almost everything which remains of the Dorset heathland, as a matter of the greatest urgency.

This strange and unique fragment of Britain's landscape is as irreplaceable as a Gothic cathedral — and the Secretary of State for the Environment would deserve congratulations if he were to set up a committee to consider its future without delay.

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Where the trout are more slippery than Congress

Ex-President Carter's fly-fishing diary

Spruce Creek, Pa.

It was late May of last year, and my wife Rosalynn and I were taking our first private motor trip since our daughter Amy was born more than 13 years ago. We had spent two days in a camper van moving through the Great Smoky Mountains and up the Shenandoah Valley to Pennsylvania.

As we crossed each mountain stream in Northern Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and Southern Pennsylvania we examined it carefully to assess the effects of recent heavy spring rains. Some were muddy and silted, while others were pure and clear, but I was certain that Pennsylvania's Spruce Creek, our destination, would be among the better ones.

Wayne Harpster, our host, who farms much of the Spruce Creek Valley land, is an outstanding dairy farmer and, not coincidentally, one of the best trout fishermen I know. While living in the White House we visited Wayne several times, and for more than a year we planned to return in the last week in May to celebrate two important events: Wayne's birthday and the annual green drake hatch, which event was more significant to him of changing the date of his birthday to match the hatch.

Thursday afternoon: As we sat on the front porch assembling our rods, checking our leaders and clearing our lines in the afternoon we could see the large mayflies (called "shas flies") by some of the local fishermen) darting up and down. An occasional trout rose, although we could not yet see any of the big flies on the water. I couldn't wait until after our early supper, though, so I floated a small yellow-bodied streamer far under the overhanging limbs and soon netted a nice stream-bred trout. It was a good omen for the coming day.

About eight o'clock the cloud of mayflies began dipping to the water's surface from the females to deposit their eggs, and trout began to rise regularly to take the floating insects. When our cases were on target and the floats natural, we caught fish. Most of our catch were 11 to 13-inch browns, but Rosalynn netted and released a beautiful 16-inch fighter.

Thursday evening: During the next few days our entire family would be together, all avid fly-fishers except daughter Amy, who still maintains a few other more urgent priorities. After more than a decade in public life we naturally value privacy during our rare vacation times; but we also cherish good companionship, so at our request, Wayne had invited our fishing friends Lloyd Riss and George Harvey to join us.

George had taught more than 35,000 students both the rudiments and the advanced skills of fly-fishing and was trying as a professor at Pennsylvania State University. Now retired, he still shares his knowledge and wisdom — and his beautiful flies — with a few lucky friends.

Those of us who usually release trout, George crusades for barbless hooks, and during the week we were to be convinced of the value of his advice. It is much easier to slip the hook out of the trout's mouth without a barb than with one, and possibly injury to the fish. For fishermen like me who might be concerned about losing too many hooked fish without barbs, George has a simple answer: After a trout is on his line he will ostentatiously lay the rod on the ground and ignore it for a minute or two, then lift it again and reel in the fish. During these demonstrations he rarely loses a trout.

In addition to our discussions about fly-fishing strategy and tactics, my fishing companions commented on my conversion to loss in moving from the White House back home to Plains — but not in reference

to the elections. Along with my other prized rods I had packed two superb bamboo rods, one of them specially designed by Tom Maxwell and built for me after their normal working hours by the craftsmen at H. L. Leonard Rod Co. as a gift for a fly-fishing president.

It suited me perfectly and was a favourite for light-tackle fly fishing. The other rod was part of a special conservation award commissioned by one of the sporting magazines after we had moved successfully to protect more than 100 million acres of Alaska wilderness.

They were among my most cherished possessions and had been handled with special care for the trip from Camp David for crating and shipping to Georgia. When I opened the wooden crates containing my fishing equipment, the two rods were missing. A subsequent investigation indicated that they had been stolen. These rods, not the election campaign, seemed to be the more serious loss to all of us as we discussed important matters by the tumbling waters of the Pennsylvania creek.

Friday morning: Early the next morning I was the first one up, eager to try the meadow stream above our cottage. For an hour or so I had to be satisfied with a solitary trout, the beauty of the sunrise and some practice in wading, casting, and testing my dexterity in the early dawn chill by tying on a wide variety of dry flies. Finally the sun warmed both me and the deerhair black ant, I began to take trout.

Even more amazing, the big brown moved forward into the clear water, and I slowly but steadily worked closer in.

He and I had a long tug-of-war. I couldn't pull him out, and finally ran my hand down the leader and felt his mouth. As I tried to lift him free, he thrashed loose.

That morning's baptism and my Baptist upbringing had not totally prepared me for such ignominious defeat, and I used

few choice words that disturbed the tranquility of the now quiet, gurgling stream.

Tuesday I was glad to meet Joe Humphreys, who had managed most effectively to fill George Harvey's waders at Penn State for the last several years. I asked if he wanted to go fishing. He replied: "dry fly, rising trout, long leaders, fine tippet, deep water."

"OK," he said. "Then let's try nymphs on the bottom in riffles and shallow pools. That was like dealing with Congress."

It was the first time I had fished the creek. But that Tuesday evening brought my best fishing experience. Everything went right. On my second cast I caught a 17-inch wild brown beauty, and from then on I couldn't seem to miss. Never a trigger, a leader or a foul-up in the netting. I caught almost every rising trout I saw. I netted and released more than two dozen good-size fish. Then I accepted an invitation to join the weekly neighborhood poker game and my luck still held. I finally went home tired, ahead of the game all the way around, and happy and thankful for one evening of the best days of my life.

The trees, grass and snags reached out for the fly on almost every cast. Fish were feeding voraciously on an excellent evening dun hatch. But they were not for me. I finally gave up and waited for the others to return from the stream and, predictably, everyone else had had notable success.

Sunday morning: After my sad experience everyone was convinced that I needed to go to church. Afterwards, we drove up to State College to visit George and Helen Har-

Jimmy Carter
© Jimmy Carter 1982
The author was President of the USA, from 1977 to 1981.

concentrate more upon parliamentary reform. If Parliament is seen to be simply a rubber stamp for the government of the day, it confers no additional authority upon the policies it passes. But if parliamentary approval were not to be taken for granted, the policies that were passed would be seen to be more than the product of the present dialogue within the government machine, and between departments and their special interest groups.

This would be inconvenient for governments in the short term because they would find it harder to get their legislation enacted. It would encourage the lobbying of Parliament by a wide range of pressure groups. But it would also increase the influence of public opinion on particular policies because Parliament could be expected to be responsive to the wishes of the electorate, even if it did not follow those wishes slavishly. There is more likely to be consistent public consent for policy that has been passed in this kind of way before being put into practice.

The other possibility is to

The Great European Eaters, 2: Gert von Paczensky at Inverloch Castle, Invernesshire

A grouse or two

Many years ago I was agreeably surprised by good food served during a short stay in a hotel at Falmouth. Unfortunately I cannot remember the name. I have had some highly satisfactory meals elsewhere in the country — admittedly not many, but enough to be one of the very few non-British supporters of (some) British restaurant fare.

During my few London years however, the only outstanding food I found in the capital was smoked salmon, nothing else, however much I tried.

It lingered on in my mind until I found it again... in Paris. And while I always objected to the all-too-familiar stories about the alleged impossibility of finding good food in Paris, I used to agree that in London — if one didn't want to live on smoked salmon alone — the only decent places for eating out were foreign ones.

All this was 30 years ago. Fortified by my memories of the British Isles, I went through the good food school that many people from Britain also frequent: France, years of it. Afterwards I watched the birth and growth of a really outstanding nouvelle cuisine, French style, in West Germany.

Being fortunate enough to travel frequently to the gastronomically more interesting European States, I think I was ripe for the kind of invitation extended to me by *The Times*: to have a

competent look, or rather bite (and sniff at some of Britain's famous restaurants — French cuisine or not. We chose them from two guides which seem most serious and/or successful: the Michelin and Egon Ronay's. Some are restaurants where the two are in agreement, others where they are not.

So we went up, one rainy day at the end of October, into Scottish territory: Inverloch Castle. Surrounded by marvellous scenery as if from a painting of the British school, it reminded me nonetheless of a special impressive chateau not far from Marly-le-Roi, built at the turn of the century by a chemist from Paris. Still, I went to enjoy the cuisine, not grandiose-neuronal living.

The magnificent baronial dining room? Ronay mentions did not strike us as the ultimate in good taste or in practical arrangement: outside tables and chairs, two huge buffets; a third of the dinner guests seated with their backs to the room; very dim light; making recognition of your food difficult; a large service-carving and heating buffet in the corner, away from most tables. I understood why Americans, at least in fibre-optic British castles with ghosts, but as a centre of gastronomic repute it seemed odd. A great

display of silverware, such as you would expect in the London Silver Vaults, does nothing for the palate, of course. Contrary to what I'd been brought up to expect, the proprietors/managers shake hands with their guests several times a day, and the service at table is also unusual. It is not the waiter's job here to put your food on your plate, but your own. The instruments available turn this into a rather awkward ceremony. We scratched sticky moustache de saumon with a round spoon from a silver plate; we balanced grouse on tiny spoons and forks and hardly managed to get them on our plates. I was old-fashioned enough to think that in good restaurants all the work, except eating, should be done

by the staff. Guests pay far too much to want to be treated like members of the owner's family.

That moustache: first it stuck to its silver container, then to the round spoon, then to the fork with which I tried to persuade it to settle on my plate. It had that certain fishy taste that only fish lovers (at least) any fish dish.

And the grouse. When I was a child all sorts of game would hang from our window cross-bars — the winter in Silesia guaranteed temperatures low enough to let them hang there for weeks while they took on the game taste which our grandparents liked. The bitterness, the haut goût had to be tempered by plenty of cream sauce and enormous amounts of very sweet cranberries.

This Scottish grouse could be tempered by nothing. It tasted alarming throughout, even with its accompaniment of extremely sweet red cabbage and game chips. These at least were passably hot in marked contrast to the poor grouse.

If this speciality disappointed us, what about the less famous Angus beef? It was thick (slices about five millimetres), colour from pink to grey, and it occupied our teeth far too long. The longer you chew meat, in contrast to bread, the less it

tastes of anything at all. That is why generations of cooks have aimed to serve tender beef if indeed any beef at all; most gourmets consider it second-rate pleasure behind lamb, various fowl, game, fish, shellfish and some offal.

"Our Angus had surprising good looks, but no discernible taste," said one of the staff. Nothing to applaud at Inverloch Castle? But certainly: an almost perfect soufflé citron (very sweet). And a discovery which compels me to actually recommend it to the wines.

The list here is not very large, but very good — and having just finished a Tour de France of three-star restaurants I found some great Bordeaux at Inverloch far cheaper. 1971 Pichon Lalande £17, 1970 Figeas £20, 1955 Côté d'Estournel £26, 1966 Ducru £26, and 1961 Latour for £75; in French restaurants you pay more.

Inverloch Castle is not a restaurant but a small hotel, accepting only about 26 guests. The 1981 rates were £81.50 per day for a room for two, including breakfast; dinner about £20 a head without drink; lunch by special arrangement only. The castle is closed now and does not reopen before Easter. The Michelin just mentions it as a pleasant hotel, not a word about the kitchen. I think that is the better judgment.

Next: Robert Courtine on wine and the English

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Geoffrey Smith

Suddenly a coalition doesn't seem such a bad idea

"England does not love coalitions", Disraeli declared with a fine disregard for the opinion of the Scots, the Welsh and the Irish. He was speaking as long ago as 1852, yet from that day to this his maxim has remained part of the accepted wisdom of British politics. But a poll conducted by Marplan for *Newsweek* on BBC2 last night suggests that there has been a dramatic change.

Of those asked, 58 per cent thought it would be good for Britain, and only 23 per cent thought it would be bad, if a change in the voting system made it unlikely that any party would have an overall majority in the House of Commons and led to coalition governments. Just about the same division of opinion emerged when people were asked if the two-party system had been a good or bad thing for Britain over the last 25 years — 56 per cent thought it had been good, and only 23 per cent good.

Is this simply a reflection of the rise of the SDP-Liberal Alliance? Or have British preferences perhaps been

misunderstood all these years?

These findings are certainly encouraging for the Alliance, but they are not a consequence of it. The same poll showed that while 29 per cent, behind the Conservatives with 34 per cent and Labour with 32 per cent, it also indicated that a majority of both Conservative and Labour supporters, as well as adherents to the Alliance, look benignly on the prospect of coalitions.

Has this then been what the British have really wanted all along? After all, they turned to coalitions in both world wars when the very survival of the state depended on effective government. But that was entirely consistent with a national preoccupation with strong government. The

most familiar objection to coalitions in peacetime is that they provide weak administrations because the different parties have conflicting priorities. But that does not apply in wartime when victory is the supreme priority.

It is a desire for strong government that has been the traditional British preference. This has meant that in the past the electorate has favoured single-party administrations with secure parliamentary majorities. This was evident in 1956 when the Wilson Government that had been elected two years before with a minuscule majority was given a comfortable working margin. Again in October 1974 the minority Labour Government that had been returned to office the previous February was given an overall majority.

Yet over the years it has become apparent that governments that are strong in Parliament are not necessarily strong in the country. There has been the paradox that at the very time when Lord Eidsheim has been complaining of an elective dictatorship, this country has been experiencing a succession of governments that have been unable to make their policies stick because of the opposition of powerful interest groups, most notably the trade unions. Every few years we may elect a government that usually has been the constitutional authority to do what it likes, but time and again these same governments have been unable to impose their strategies for any length of time upon the country.

It is logical, therefore, if

public opinion has concluded that the old association of strong governments with parliamentary majorities is no longer valid. The fact that an administration had been elected to office is no longer an assurance that it commands the necessary public consent to put its policies into practice. The lack of the public consent for the favoured strategies of successive governments of different political complexions had been one of the principal causes of Britain's difficulties in recent years. No administration has been able to pursue its policies sufficiently consistently for the length of time required to give them a chance.

More frequent coalitions might be one answer to this problem. By their very

nature they can represent a wider section of the public than is possible for a single party except in the unusual circumstances of a landslide. It is now evident that the principal weakness ascribed to them — that they lack singleness of purpose — applies to single-party administrations as well.

England may not yet have come to love coalitions, but the British public is no longer contemptuous of them on principle. That is the significance of this poll: it removes what has been a substantial doubt about the efficacy of coalition rule, and consequently about one of the side effects of changing the electoral system. But it does not follow that we should now simply put our faith in coalitions as the answer to Britain's ills.

I suspect that the confi-

dition now reposed in political parties has become so weak that no administration, whether it is composed of one or more parties, can command the necessary support for its policies on the basis of its own authority. Major policies need to pass, and to be seen to have passed, another test as well.

One obvious answer would be to resort more frequently to referendums, so that direct public consent would be conferred on the policy itself. But there are valid objections to relying upon referendums to settle policy issues, as distinct from constitutional questions like devolution or membership of the EEC. It is hard to secure coherence or consistency in policy under rule by referendum.

The other possibility is to

سكندرية



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NOT FINISHED YET

Examining the troubles of the western alliance not one of our four contributors this week succumbed to total despair. None thought the alliance would fall apart or had outlived its usefulness. All believed its problems were remediable. This is encouraging, though no cause for complacency.

Mr Brzezinski was worried by "a progressive dilution of Western cohesion" but thought it could be stopped if we could re-establish a degree of east-west accommodation and avoid re-igniting the Cold War. Herr Brandt's plea was similar. He strongly rejected suggestions that West German oaths to the alliance might be wavering and said the issue was not the existence of Nato but its policies. Europeans, he said, merely wanted to maintain Nato's long-standing policy of combining military equilibrium, political détente and balanced disarmament.

M Couve de Murville pointed out that the alliance had always been plagued by disputes and ambiguities but its future was not in question. "The fundamental interests of the two parties to the alliance, American and the European, coincide and that is why believe this association will last forever." Nevertheless, he suggested, it would be desirable if the Americans would agree to treat the Europeans as adults.

Finally Mr Callaghan said firmly that "there is no prospect of the alliance breaking up". But there was, he said, a real worry that it could become so divided as to be incapable of taking concerted action. "We have recently lost sight of a common political purpose, and, without that, military strategy exists in a vacuum... There is growing up a basic difference between the way in which America and Europe view the world, and

until our broad perceptions come together again the alliance will be ineffective".

That is really the nub of the matter. Europeans mostly feel that the east-west détente of the 1970s was a success because it reduced the danger of war in Europe, opened eastern Europe to western influence, and got arms control talks under way. Americans tend to feel it was a failure because the Russians continued to build up their weaponry and extend their influence in the Third World. Hence the Americans feel a need to return to a policy of active military containment while the Europeans feel that Soviet power can be managed without resort to world-wide confrontation which would jeopardize the gains of détente in Europe.

This failure to agree on the nature of the Soviet threat and the best way of counteracting it is one of the central causes of friction in the alliance. In European eyes the Americans never really understood détente. In the early 1970s many Americans thought it meant partnership with the Soviet Union in maintaining a stable world order whereas, in fact, of course, the Soviet Union was always wholly frank about regarding it as a framework within which the struggle — even armed struggle — for influence would continue.

When the Americans woke up to this it was a shock, but it should not have been. Moreover it was less the Russians than the turmoil in American politics in the 1970s that undermined Dr Kissinger's attempts to confront the Soviet Union with a coherent system of rewards and penalties. Properly managed détente was never fully tested because it was undermined from both extremes of American politics. At the

same time, however, the Europeans can be justly criticized for being insufficiently alert to Soviet threats to their interests outside Nato area. This has contributed to American sense of loneliness and betrayal.

It would probably help if attention could be concentrated for a while less on specific issues and more on trying to establish a common view of the world's problems, and especially of the Soviet threat. This, if it could be achieved, would provide a foundation of consensus on which to plan specific responses. It would also enable the alliance to get a better order of priorities into its thinking. At the moment each issue tends to be treated as a major test of alliance cohesion. Yet what really matters is that the alliance should act together when faced with an event that could alter the balance of world power in favour of the Soviet Union. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was such an event. The seizure of American hostages in Iran was not. Nor is military rule in Poland, no matter how regrettable. The alliance cannot be united on everything. Let it keep its vital interests in view.

Last but far from least the alliance should be looking not just at the Soviet threat but at other threats to peace and security, including especially the growing economic stresses within the western world which are being aggravated by Mr Reagan's budget deficit, as Mr Herr Schmidt has just warned. If the Americans want a healthy alliance to face external threats they must pay heed to warnings of this sort. It would be absurd if the ramblings of the western world were to crumble under the weight of weaponry intended to defend it.

CORK'S LAST CHANCE

Sir Kenneth Cork, familiar provider of a better class of financial funeral service, has set himself and his colleagues a demanding task over the next few weeks in the attempt to make a success of the De Lorean car company. Voluntary receivership is clearly the company's best hope of survival in something like its present form. There was no point in putting in more public money trying to pretend that the existing financial structure could be kept in being. The government has effectively written off most of its £70m and another £40m or 50m needs to be found in the next few weeks if anything is to be saved.

The Cork report says that if his extra money can be found the plan can be made viable. It is in the interests of everyone that he and his fellow receiver should succeed. Unemployment in Northern Ireland is 20 per cent of the workforce; in West Belfast there are pockets where every other man is out of work. The loss of over 2,500 jobs there would be a grievous blow and an unjust one for the De Lorean workforce has responded well. If Sir Kenneth Cork cannot succeed the govern-

ment will have to take other steps to generate jobs. But success will do what it was originally hoped the De Lorean investment would do to restore confidence and excite further investment.

There are some lessons from the affair. It would be facile to say that the original decision must have been wrong. Not so long ago, when things seemed to be going well, the Department of Trade and Industry was being attacked for not securing a larger share of the risk-taking equity. The venture was, in fact, a reasonable risk and of course it might still flourish.

Where there does seem genuine ground for criticism is in the role of government after the decision to invest had been made. Mr Prior spoke sharply yesterday about the role of management mistakes. Mr De Lorean has said he sometimes had bad financial advice. Government was represented through the Northern Ireland office. It was, in effect, the banker to the project. But it does not seem to have kept the close contact with its clients that it ought to have done and the government-appointed directors on the board of the company do not seem to have

played a particularly effective role. Their presence was meant to be the guarantee that the public stake was being protected. Any future arrangement in which public money is involved ought to organize public scrutiny more effectively.

These principles will need to be borne firmly in mind if the restructured company asks the Government for any further support. The level of unemployment in Northern Ireland is so high that the Government ought to be willing to take greater risks to help activity there than in the rest of the country. But any new plan has to show real proof that it is laying the basis for permanent jobs at a reasonable cost. In particular, there will have to be convincing evidence that the fall in De Lorean sales in the United States is a temporary problem caused by uncertainty and market conditions rather than a deeper seated defect in the design aspect of the car.

If the new company can save jobs on that basis it ought to receive cordial backing. But if the slimmer bird will not fly, gull wings and all, it will be as well to recognise it and let the processes begun yesterday continue their normal course.

BETTER IN THAN OUT

fatters must have come to a pretty pass in the world outside our prisons when the courts have to deal with citizens accused of breaking out of them but in Mr Whitelaw and other proponents of the short sharp shock will have to reconsider their philosophy if further cases like the one recently reported at Wormwood Scrubs indicate a radical shift in the balance of supply and demand in penal affairs. The prisons are so overcrowded already that the authorities would need no reminder that turning away volunteers, harsh though it may seem, is quite unavoidable. Those who are in prison by no choice of their own must be given the priority they deserve.

There has always been a humanitarian dilemma implicit in the fact that no man who has contrived enough to get himself into prison is likely to let himself starve on the doorstep. In the past, a rick hurled at a police station's blue lamp on Christmas Eve was proverbially a passport to the thin festivities of a prison banquet. But by temptation upon the authorities to adjust the prison regime to maintain the desired gradient between conditions inside and out must always defer to the obligation to guarantee the basic decencies of treatment

to the Queen's guests. It is strong evidence of how very sweet liberty in itself is to the human spirit that even in the deepest wells of Victorian squalor that Mayhew reported with popping eyes, in Whitechapel or Seven Dials, most people exhibited a decided preference for being out of gaol rather than in.

We have not yet reached the point where the open prisons need consider fortifying themselves against external assault, with the inmates manning the barricades to fight for their privileges. But the impression that something odd is happening to our arrangements for punishment and reward is reinforced by the story of the Citizen's Band. In the circumstances, it is perhaps necessary to recall that this has nothing to do with Wat Tyler or Mr Peter Tatchell's proposals for improving the accountability of Parliament. The band is on the radio dial, a wavelength where anyone who cares to invest in suitable transmitting equipment and a licence can strike up conversation with anyone else who has done the same.

In the United States, a nation where democratic instincts are deeply ingrained, Citizens' Band has become an institution, an ethereal hub-bub of gossip and slang so exuberant and evanescent as

to defeat the art of lexicography. Until last year, broadcasting of this kind was banned in Britain. But the Government was presented with a problem. The British, whose instincts are cantankerous rather than democratic, began to show a determination to indulge in illicit transmissions.

In what must be regarded as a stroke of notable statesmanship, the government announced that Citizens' Band would be made legal. Electronics dealers stocked up on a large scale in expectation of a rush. For a few weeks after Emancipation Day all seemed well. But the boom ended almost before it had begun. It became apparent that the British did not really want Citizens' Band now they had it. Why should they? They had made their point, but as usual they had nothing to say to each other, particularly not to people they had not been properly introduced to, and least of all when identified as Bushy Tail of Bagshot or Caddis Fly of St Andrews. By making it legal, the government had made it uninteresting. It remains to be seen whether the principle at work in this instance is capable of wider application. It will be instructive in due time to compare the success of the contrasted approach adopted by Mr Norman Tebbit.

Israel and Syria: grounds for comparison

From the Israeli Ambassador

Sir, The Times has spoken out no less than twice on Middle East issues within a 72-hour period. On February 15 it commented on the internal situation in Syria and summed up its view on the subject by heading its leading article with the words: "The best Assad we have". On February 17 it pronounced on recent news concerning the possible sale of sophisticated American arms to Jordan and concluded that the United States should "reduce the level of American military aid to Israel". The upshot in both cases is that the real problem and danger — "of course" — is Israel.

President Assad can fire heavy artillery into the narrow streets of Hama, inflicting over 1,000 fatalities and untold injury and misery on many more thousands of his own people and still come away crowned with such Times accolades as "a man of straightforward dealing and statesmanlike behaviour".

The danger lies not in the bloody excesses of a brutal regime and its openly professed expansionist designs, as attested to by a 20,000 strong army of occupation in Lebanon today and a massive military invasion of Jordan some years ago. "The danger [is] that Israel... might take advantage of Syrian weakness to launch a large-scale invasion of Southern Lebanon" (1).

One is left to wonder how The Times proposes in the future to back up its strictures of the Poles for the "mere" imposition of martial law now that it has designated the perpetrator of mass slaughter in Hama as no less than "statesmanlike".

The same line of logic is applied to the issue of arms supplies to the Middle East. It would appear that the danger here lies not in the vast acquisition of arms by the Syrians to use them in order to bring down a state by the name of Israel but in the continued ability of that state to provide for its defence. I quote from The Times: "No, the country by which Jordan feels directly threatened — and against which it feels especially vulnerable in the air — is of course ('of course') Israel".

What evidence does The Times have for levelling such a serious charge and at such a difficult time? When did Israel ever threaten Jordan, let alone attack it? Who set upon whom in 1967? Who could not resist joining the fray in 1973? And who exercised the maximum possible restraint in both cases?

One can only speculate on the application to the European scene of a line of argument by which a score of Arab states bristling with more arms than all of Nato is described as being threatened by a state of 3,500,000 Israelis, constrained as they are in their military resources, arms and geographic configuration, by the chances are that most of The Times's positions on the subject of European defence, and not only those of The Times, would be rendered quite untenable.

I should be grateful if you would be kind, and judicious, enough to allow these lines to be shared with your distinguished readership.

Yours faithfully,
SHELOMO ARGOV,
Embassy of Israel,
2 Palace Green, W8.

Constitution of SDP

From Mr Ian Wigglesworth, MP for Teeside Thornaby (SDP)

Sir, Your leader of Monday, February 15, betrayed some misconceptions about the SDP that have grown up over recent months. It was never intended that there should be "central direction" in the party by the leadership or anyone else.

For the last 10 months the party has been operating under an interim constitution formulated during February and March of last year by the members of the Council for Social Democracy. It was published when the party was launched and conferred certain powers and responsibilities upon a national steering committee.

One of the most important of those tasks was to prepare a constitution for the SDP and to

obtain approval for it from the membership. As soon as these tasks have been carried out the interim constitution will become defunct and the national steering committee disbanded to be replaced by elected bodies and officers. Last weekend's convention and the postal ballot of our whole membership to be held in the next few weeks will be the final part of that process.

We will then put into operation what I believe will be the most democratic constitution of any party in Great Britain, giving the fullest possible powers to the membership. It hasn't been possible to do it all in five minutes, but it is quite wrong to think that "central direction" was ever intended or sought.

Yours faithfully,
IAN WIGGLESWORTH,
House of Commons,
February 17.

Social science cuts

From Professor Norman Long and Dr Jorge Dandler

Sir, In an otherwise well-balanced overview of Social Science Research Council projects and functions (The Times, January 15, "Why Lord Rothschild should not swing the axe"), Robert Hughes suggests that research on "diversified household enterprise and labour process in the Andes", currently being carried out by myself and Dr Dandler, "could be labelled esoteric". The article does not reveal the criteria by which such a judgment might be based but simply contrasts "esoteric" research with that described as "relevant" to a country facing a severe economic crisis and having serious problems relating to unemployment and ethnic minorities.

This assessment we find strangely puzzling since one of our research objectives is to examine the survival strategies of households facing extreme scarcity of resources, very limited employment opportunities, and having poor standards of living. Also, as those who know the Andean situation can confirm, these

social problems are in fact partly related to differences of ethnic status whereby poor "Indian" peasants and miners are often exploited by richer "mestizo" entrepreneurs.

Furthermore, we would argue that the study of household economy (i.e. the understanding of how families manage their economic affairs and attempt to meet their basic consumption requirements) in the Andes (or elsewhere) has wider significance than the specific social and cultural context to which it refers. Indeed our findings could, we believe, offer fresh insights into the livelihood and domestic problems of poorer households in the British Isles, especially those living in the less developed regions which under present government policy, feel the full brunt of the economic crisis.

Why therefore should an investigation of the experiences and dilemmas encountered by poor Andean peasants and miners be considered "esoteric"? Yours faithfully,
NORMAN LONG,
JORGE DANDLER,
46 Western Hill,
Durham City,
January 29.

Music teaching

From Mr Dennis Wickens

Sir, It is astonishing to learn of the proposal of the Hereford and Worcester Education Committee to discontinue entirely with instrumental tuition in their schools. Acknowledging that last year's High Court ruling on the matter of charges may indeed have posed problems for the authorities, they must surely deserve the weight of public protest it has aroused.

It is beyond comprehension that the remarkable and ever-rising standards attained as the result of years of hard work on the part of schools, encouraged by the dedicated and distinguished leadership of the county's former music advisers, Mr A. W. Benoy and Mr Henley James, should appear to be considered totally dispensable.

The Music Advisers' National Association view with very great concern the likely effect on the morale of the schools and the

deprivation of a very large number of young people of an important dimension to their educational and social fulfilment. Furthermore, it is pertinent to observe that the national criteria for the proposed new examination at 16 plus require that all pupils taking the music examination must, in the view of the association, offer performance.

It is to be hoped that when this matter is brought before the full council on February 25 they will reject what can only be described as an act of vandalism and request the committee to produce a proposal in keeping with the spirit of the resolution adopted at the CLEA (Council of Local Education Authorities) conference in July, 1981.

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS WICKENS, Chairman,
Music Advisers' National Association,
County Music Centre,
Gordon Road,
Winchester.

The maple leaf forever

From Mr Mark Phillips

Sir, Embarrassing as it may be to have one's constitutional laundry washed in Westminster waters (clean though the Thames might be), I have not been properly introduced to, and least of all when identified as Bushy Tail of Bagshot or Caddis Fly of St Andrews. By making it legal, the government had made it uninteresting. It remains to be seen whether the principle at work in this instance is capable of wider application. It will be instructive in due time to compare the success of the contrasted approach adopted by Mr Norman Tebbit.

In the past months one has had to endure sketches of classrooms of students falling asleep during Canadian history lectures; society matrons wondering how anyone were-tapping Canadians could stay awake and unaccountable boring references to Canadians' inescapable boredom.

Still, I suppose it is something different to read about while sitting in the dark tunnels of the Northern Line waiting for the Camden Town junction to be sorted out... just as soon as whoever's supposed to do that has finished his tea.

You're all a bunch of hosers. Take off, eh!

Yours, etc,
MARK PHILLIPS, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation,
43/51 Great Titchfield Street, W1.
February 18.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Spending on ancient monuments

From Professor Martin Biddle and others

Sir, Over the past 18 months you have printed several letters expressing serious concern about the maintenance and presentation of ancient monuments in the care of the Department of the Environment. Recently you have drawn attention to the department's consultation paper, *Organisation of Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings in England*, which proposes the creation of a para-governmental agency to look after these matters and to which reactions have to be made by February 26, 1982.

Neither the letters nor the consultation paper have said much about the archaeological aspects of the department's activities. The department's current policy of funding rescue archaeology on a project-only basis has thrown the responsibility for the maintenance of a permanent archaeological presence in our cities and counties on to local government. This is at a time when the same Secretary of State is seeking to hold down local authority expenditure by every means open to him.

This inconsistency (or deliberate policy) has begun to bear fruit. The Policy, Resources, and Finance Committee of Hereford and Worcester County Council has just decided to cut the county museum budget by £80,000, or 45.2 per cent, for the coming year and has recommended that this

cut should fall mostly on the county archaeological service, which is to vanish.

If this decision is confirmed by the full council on February 25, there will be no archaeological presence in Herefordshire and Worcestershire. Like the rest of Britain, their archaeological heritage is under constant destruction from urban renewal, agriculture, extraction industries and general development, as well as by treasure-hunters. The Department of the Environment's policy of project-funding requires local initiative to get project started and accepted for government support. Without a local presence, there can be no projects. The circle of inaction is complete.

The sad and unwise decision of one county council would not perhaps be worth comment, were it not the inevitable result of what can be seen as the Secretary of State's increasingly disastrous policies towards the management of the archaeological heritage.

This is a problem which will indeed go away if nothing is done about it and, in its passing, will have taken unread the evidence for a great part of this country's past from the Stone Age to the Industrial Revolution.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN BIDDLE,
PHILIP BARKER,
CHARLES THOMAS,
as from: Christ Church,
Oxford,
February 18.

The Sphinx's beard

From Mr Edward McWilliam

Sir, In Egypt the idea has been expressed that the beard of the Sphinx had a functional, buttressing effect, rather like the supporting statue of Peter the Great in Leningrad. Certainly it is easy to believe that its loss has contributed to the deterioration.

Although the Egyptians have not, as yet, asked for the return of the beard in the British Museum, when we visit the magnificent Egyptian galleries and think what we owe to Egypt, would it not be an appropriate gesture, were we not only to return our piece but to offer help in the restoration?

The fact that the lump of stone in question is devoid of any aesthetic interest and has merely been taking up space in a store room for the past 50 years need not influence the Museum's decision.

Yours faithfully,
F. E. MCWILLIAM,
8A Holland Villas Road, W14.

From Mrs Ann Carpenter
Sir, I wonder if the "What I have I hold" policy of the British Museum on the question of handing back national treasures to their original owners is really an accurate reflection of the views of the British people. Are not our relationships with the people of the countries concerned more important than their treasures behind our glass cases (or store-room doors)? For the last several years copies have been made of the most important objects, and for the specialist scientifically recorded data would provide an indestructible record.

I feel this could be another example our outdated Western desire to decide what is in the best interests of others because of our superior technical knowledge. We are in a rare position to be generous, and to be seen to be generous, where everywhere else it seems we have to economise.

Yours faithfully,
ANN CARPENTER,
70 Ryecroft Road, SW16.

Lead pollution

From the President of the Institution of Environmental Health Officers

Sir, In the understandable interest in lead in petrol and the need to reduce it or phase it out, it must not be overlooked that the lead problem is a multi-source problem. The total body burden of any individual is the sum of all the sources of lead including food, water, air, dust and industrial emissions. For example, the Department of the Environment initiated a national survey of lead in tap water and in the subsequent report, *Lead in Drinking Water*, it was shown that in Great Britain 9 per cent of household samples had lead concentrations exceeding the World Health Organisation recommended maximum limit, a limit itself twice as high as a proposed EEC limit.

In the United States lead-based paint is regarded as the most important high-dose source of lead and the most common cause of serious lead poisoning in children. Regular child screening programmes are carried out and in 1980 507,925 children were screened and 26,519 required a diagnostic evaluation for lead toxicity. During the same year 16,408 dwellings were inspected and 11,991 found with a lead hazard. The work is facilitated by the use of cheap, small, portable equipment for the detection of lead in paint — equipment designed in the United States but not available in this country.

It is essential that every step should be taken to reduce all sources of environmental lead and most urgently those sources most likely to affect the critical group in the population, namely the pre-school child. But campaigns need to be reinforced by positive action. This screening campaigns of pre-school children, especially those living in the inner-city areas, followed up by medical and

detailed environmental investigation and intervention in the case of each child exhibiting elevated blood lead levels.

The work needs to be supplemented by an educational campaign for health workers, housing officers and parents to discuss the total lead problem and the steps which can be taken to protect the public, and not least the young child. The Institution of Environmental Health Officers is planning a series of seminars for this purpose.

Yours faithfully,
A. ARCHER, President,
The Institution of Environmental Health Officers,
Chadwick House,
Rushworth Street, SE1.

Flexible indeed

From Mr Christopher Cutting

Sir, The phrase "some flexibility around the eight-hour day" is inherently ambiguous. The commonly held view is that it supports British Rail's case — the adverb "around" is regarded as qualifying "eight" (and meaning in this context "approximately") thereby justifying calls for shifts between seven and nine hours of work.

However, the more natural interpretation favours Aslef's case: "around" is a preposition which applies to the phrase "eight-hour day" in the sense in which one builds a wall "around" a house. In this sense the eight-hour day is to remain intact and any flexibility has to be built "around" this fact.

The only question which remains is whether this ambiguity (which could not exist in French or German) crept in by accident or design.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER CUTTING,
11 Old Square,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2,
February 17.

Enduring Latin

From Dr M. A. Halls

Sir, Your leading article of last Saturday (February 13), "*Finis Coronat Opus*", justly acclaims the completion of a great dictionary. As you say, the work done in these fascicles has been done to last.

It would, however, be profoundly regrettable were this magnificent work to be, as you predict, the last Oxford Latin Dictionary. It has defined the usage and vocabulary of Classical Latin, and only on this foundation could we hope to see a worthy, and valuable, successor: an (Oxford?) Dictionary of the Latin of the Middle Ages and Renaissance. That hope now awakens.

Latin may, as you say, Sir, be a dead language (though it seems unreal to apply the familiar, spectral metaphor to the works cited in the fascicles before us), but Augustine and Claudian, Erasmus and Milton bear witness that it did not, at any rate, die with Ulpian.

I am, Sir,
Yours, etc,
MICHAEL HALLS,
6 Clare Street,
Cambridge.

Collectors' items

From Dr Carol Varlaam

Sir, You have brightened my day immeasurably. I was unaware until now that nineteenth-century Iceland was "totally uninhabited" — and always had been, apart from a few Irish hermit-monks. "Special Report" (February 17). Such a pearl of historical wisdom makes a welcome change to the gloom of current affairs.

Yours sincerely,
CAROL VARLAAM,
2 Ellerton Road, SW18,
February 17.

From Mr Colin Mursion Small
Sir, I read with interest in today's issue (February 18) that Sir Derek Rayner feels that there is scope for a reduction in Civil Service paperwork and that "after months of pouring over the intricacies of the forms selected, the civil servants found that about a quarter could be abandoned".

Pouring? Tea, I presume? Yours faithfully,
COLIN MURISON SMALL,
21 Burgrave Road, SE24,
February 18.

Saturday Review

THE *Washington* SCANDALS

Is there woodworm in that cherry tree? Which was he really, the paragon or the stallion of the Potomac? Or was he a woman? Marcus Cunliffe weighs the evidence



ONE DOLLAR

The decline of America, according to a 1970s joke, was expressed by the shift from George Washington who could not tell a lie, to Richard Nixon who could not tell the truth. The joke actually has an older lineage. During the Nixon years someone said that from Washington who could not tell a lie, the country had come to Franklin D. Roosevelt who could not tell the truth, and then to Lyndon B. Johnson who could not tell the difference. And of the centennial celebration of 1876, in the inglorious presidency of General Grant, a wit said that the United States had slumped from Washington, who could not tell the truth, to Grant who could not tell the truth.

I expect the gag can be traced back even further. It has obviously done yeoman service. A long run of American presidents and other dignitaries has proved vulnerable to accusations of prevarication, malversation, fornication and the like. What is more, such scandals seem peculiarly apt to surface on patriotic anniversaries. The 1982 commemoration of FDR's 100th birthday has been a little marred. FDR's reputation was already impaired by the disclosure of his protracted love affair with Lucy Mercer, and of his callous treatment of his wife Eleanor. The subsequent news of conversations taped by FDR in his White House office produced a fresh crop of tales that he had shown a salacious interest in the amours of contemporaries, including his Republican rival Wendell Willkie. Recent revelations of tapings by John F. Kennedy (he too already established to have been something of a womanizer) have chipped off more paint and plaster from the image of Camelot.

Where does it stop? In 1976 the bicentennial of the Declaration of Independence was slightly soured by controversy over the morals of the Declaration's chief author, Thomas Jefferson. A book by Fawn Brodie, *Thomas Jefferson: An Intimate History*, revived an ancient allegation, that Jefferson took as mistress a Monticello house slave, Sally Hemings, who over the years bore him five children; but that he, renowned humanitarian, set free neither Sally nor her offspring.

The accusation has been answered by Virginian Dabney in another book, *The Jefferson Scandals*. Dabney quite convincingly argues that the father of Sally Hemings's children was a nephew of Jefferson.

What is notable is that George Washington is usually taken to be the benchmark, the absolute contrast, the perfect man. Is this true, or a legend? The 250th anniversary of his birth falls on February 22, 1982, which also happens to be the fiftieth birthday of Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Chappaquiddick notoriety. Will gossip-mongers seize upon anecdotes to indicate that the *Pater Patriae* was no better than the rest?

It seems unlikely. However, Washington did attract gossip while he was alive and at intervals thereafter. Most of the stories relate to his supposed sexual behaviour. They were scrutinized in some detail

by biographers of the 1920s, when "debunking" was in fashion. At the end of the 1920s the archivist-biographer John C. Fitzpatrick, a devoted admirer, rebutted a number of allegations in *The George Washington Scandals*, a pamphlet from which I freely draw. Other scholars have in the main agreed with Fitzpatrick.

His beliefs that prurient rumours started in July 1775 when Washington had just joined the Continental Army as commander-in-chief, outside Boston, and received a letter from a friend in Virginia, Benjamin Harrison. Harrison was a prominent member of one of the colony's great families, and possibly a sensualist. The New Englander John Adams, who disapproved of a good many people, once described Harrison as "an indolent, luxurious, heavy gentleman."

The letter was unremarkable except for one paragraph. Harrison, saying that he liked to pass on "some of these adventures" to take Washington's mind off the war, told of an encounter with "pretty little Kate," the washerwoman's daughter, "clean, trim, and rosey as the morning." Kate was evidently willing to meet him half way, so that he would be able to "ready" her "for my General against his return" to Virginia.

Harrison's role as pander to Washington was referred to again a year later, in an American Loyalist play, *The Battle of Brooklyn*. This farce derided the colonists for military incompetence. It also in passing introduced a confession from a maid-servant named Betty. Betty said that Benjamin Harrison had bribed her to sleep with him, a disagreeable bargain, and had passed her on to Washington, whom she found less repugnant.

Another legend concerns another letter, supposedly an invitation to visit Washington's Mount Vernon, with the inducement that the guest will be provided with an attractive octoroon slave girl. The invitation was variously said to have been addressed to Jefferson, to Hamilton, and to Lafayette. According to Fitzpatrick, no historian had ever set eyes on

the invitation, though plenty of people claimed to have spoken to other people who had seen it. Another Washington scandal appeared in London in the shape of a transcript of minutes of a hearing on a conspiracy to assassinate or kidnap Washington in New York, while he briefly held the city in 1776. A member of his bodyguard, Thomas Hickey, was in fact tried and hanged for complicity in such a plot. The London transcript (published by John Bew) cited evidence implicating Washington in an affair with one Mary Gibbons, "a girl from New Jersey" whom he kept in a house where he came "very

often late at night in disguise." Mary Gibbons extracted information from him, sometimes through his unguarded talk and sometimes by having the papers in Washington's pocket copied and returned while he was, so to speak, otherwise engaged. Finally, yet another batch of Washington letters was published in London (again by Bew) in 1777, and reprinted in New York at the Loyalist press of James Rivington. One letter was addressed by Washington to his wife Martha, protesting in a blend of irritability and lavish endearment that he was too busy to write often — this at the very time when, the Bew

pamphlet insinuated, he was heavily involved with Mary Gibbons.

The common feature of all these documents is that they were British or Loyalist concoctions, mingling fact and fancy with a fair degree of ingenuity. Harrison's original letter to Washington was intercepted by the enemy. Someone added the paragraph about "Kate" before transmitting the copy to Lord Dartmouth in London. It was printed, with the forged portion, in *The Gentleman's Magazine* (September 1775) and reprinted in North America, where it was widely regarded as genuine.

Letters figure prominently in Washington legend partly on account of different types of forgery, those aimed at the

"Kate" became transformed into "Betty" (*The Battle of Brooklyn*), and both of them into "Mary Gibbons" (in Bew's *Minutes*, a complete fabrication of a non-existent hearing). The 1777 volume of letters combined authentic, unaltered Washington letters with half a dozen entire forgeries (probably done by John Randolph, a Virginian Loyalist exiled in London who was well acquainted with Washington and the Mount Vernon household).

Letters figure prominently in Washington legend partly on account of different types of forgery, those aimed at the

Posey, beginning, "My dear Son".

Fitzpatrick countered by proving that Washington had actually written "My dear Sir", noting that Posey was only one of several children in the district helped by Washington. Fitzpatrick goes on: "If every child whose education was assisted by Washington were to be stigmatized, in consequence, as his natural off-spring, the distinction of being the Father of His Country might take on a new meaning."

The myths extend even to cover the circumstances of Washington's death in December 1799. Orthodox history has

profitable collectors' market for Washingtoniana. Latter-day forgers are stimulated too by the dearth of private Washington correspondence — largely because his wife Martha burned almost all the letters she had received from him.

Moreover, in 1925, Edward L. Tinker, an American bookman, reported an excursion to a famous private library, apparently that of the banker J. P. Morgan. Morgan's librarian informed Tinker that she had "in this very room" destroyed some Washington letters. They were, she said, "smutty, so I did not want them ever to become public and destroy the ideal of Washington that has flourished so long." Tinker ventured to ask whether she thought her act, in behalf of Morgan, was morally defensible. "Yes," was the answer, "even if it only served to keep alive in our schools the fable of the cherry tree."

The papers may have been genuine, since Farmer George was capable of jocular straightforwardness. They may have been fakes, intended to titillate some rich collector. To most people, the very absence of scandalous evidence is a testimony to his extraordinary virtue. To others however it is a stimulus to believing that his peccadilloes have merely been concealed by successive guardians of the Washington shrine, from Martha to J. P. Morgan.

Just possibly, though I doubt it, these considerations have encouraged a number of other stories, involving a degree of sexual activity that has supposedly conferred upon George Washington the sobriquet of "stallion of the Potomac". Of these the most elaborate relates to the Posey family, unprosperous neighbours at Mount Vernon. A son was christened George. Washington paid for part of George Posey's education, and helped him in what became a successful later career. Ergo, George Posey was the natural son of George Washington. True, Washington, then 19 years old, was away in Barbados at the moment of Posey's birth. Answer: he was sent off to Barbados for several months, in 1751-52, to avoid scandal. As a clincher, there is a letter from Washington to

Delight in gossip's sake must also be taken into the reckoning. Gossip columnists are often malicious in their treatment of celebrities. But they supply a double need on the part of the public: to be given glimpses of life led at a higher level than their own, but also to be assured that the great are basically the same as themselves.

In the light of such considerations, the surprising feature is not that Washington attracted some scandal but that he was the target of so little. Again, much of it can be seen as appreciative rather than hostile. "Stallion of the Potomac" is surely a kind of commendation? Still, it is nice for Americans in 1982 to feel that whoever else is revealed to have been all too human, George Washington remains exemplary.

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Marcus Cunliffe, formerly Professor of American Studies at the University of Sussex, now at George Washington University, Washington DC, is the author of a standard biography of America's first president.



This is the start of a series of articles about rural life by the distinguished writer Susan Hill, in the form of edited extracts from her new book, *The Magic Apple Tree*, a brilliantly evocative account of the country year 1980-81. Susan Hill's novels have won her the Whitbread, Somerset Maugham and John Llewellyn Rhys prizes; this book, her first non-fiction work, will be published by Hamish Hamilton on April 29. The first extract records the day the snow fell...

For all that Barley lies in a comparatively mild inland country and for all that much of the winter is often grey, fog and damp, there are bouts of severe weather and then, because we stand on a hill, and all the approaches to us are uphill ones, and because we are, so to speak, a dead end, on the road to no other village or town, we are very exposed to blizzard and bitter winds. It was on the second Tuesday in January — W.I. night that last winter became a serious and dramatic matter, a cold, tiring, but exhilarating time, at least for the young, and a companionable time for all, when we were stranded, snow-bound and sealed off in place and, it seemed, in time too,

for the usual pattern of the day's coming and going was halted. We had been in the town all day, and I had scarcely noticed the weather. But, by the time I put the car up the steep bit of hill, past Cuckoo Farm and Foxley Spinney, towards the village, the sky had gathered a leaden, phurous yellow gleam over iron grey. It was achingly cold, the wind coming north-east off the Fen made us cry. We ran indoors to Moon Cottage, switched on the stove, made tea, shut out the weather, though we could still hear it, the wind made a thin, steely noise under doors and through all the cracks and crevices of the

old house. But by six o'clock there had been one of those sudden changes. I opened the door to let in Hastings, the tabby cat, and sensed it at once. The wind had dropped and died, everything was still and dark as coal, no moonlight, not a star showed through the cloud cover, and it was just a degree warmer. I could smell the approaching snow. Everything waited. Another hour later, setting off for the W.I. I saw the first, fat flakes as they came softly down and settled at once as they touched the ground. I bent and touched them. They were odd, dry, grainy. They would last. I put on my coat and boots and took the lantern.

The W.I. hall, which was the village school a hundred years ago, stands in the lee of the church of St Nicholas at the top of the lane that leads from Moon Cottage. It is stone-built, barn-shaped, with high windows and poor lighting, and the walls are curiously adorned with sporting trophies, the antlered heads of long-dead stags, and glass cases full of stuffed fox, fish and stoat. There are no street lights in Barley and on a dark night like this you cannot see further than the end of your nose. But ahead, up the lane, I could see other lanterns and torches bobbing on, as



Winter comes to Barley

the ladies made their way up to the hall. In the doorway, we tested the temperature of the building and kept on our coats and scarves and boots. People coming in cars from outlying farms, or the next village, which does not have an Institute, spoke uneasily of the bad weather forecast and the need to get away early; snow powdered hats and shoulders and was filling up the ruts in the cart track outside, softly, steadily.

Our domestic business was hurried through. The speaker for the evening, who had come twelve miles to tell us about her travels in Arabia (at the age of seventy!), was in a direct line from those intrepid female adventurers of the nineteenth century who crossed mountain ranges by mule with only native scouts for company, and ventured into remote and dangerous areas of the desert in search of early pottery

fragments. Her talk was later described in the minutes as "fascinating" but she gave it at top speed and omitted the showing of her slides altogether, so nervous was she about being marooned in Barley by the bad weather. By nine o'clock we had dismounted and the snow was inches deep and still falling like goose feathers. It was a convivial, even giggly walk down the dark lane, with elderly ladies clutching one another's arms, torches dropped and extinguished at once buried in the snow, and a certain air of excitement, for all the complaining.

Next morning, the snow had turned pink, and the sky was pink, too, the whole Fen and all the snow-covered fields between seemed to glow with it, as the sun rose. I opened the front door and stepped out and up to my knees in snow. The steps were not to be seen, and the stone wall dividing us from the Buttercup field, below the apple tree, was concealed too, under the hummocks and billows of wind-blown snow. After an hour or so of hard digging, scraping and shovelling back, we carved a narrow path out to the lane, but no further. Moon Cottage was cut off from Geranium Cottage, belonging to our neighbour Mr Elder, and from Fen

Cottage opposite, and School Lane was cut off from the rest of the village, and the village from the world. Across the snow, we saw other people with shovels and waded to them, stranded on our island. I wondered about old Miss Reever, alone in the very last cottage, before the lane peters out into the fields, and how much food we had and how long it would be before my husband Stanley would get to work again.

Extremes of bad weather and being isolated by them brings out the best in village communities and shows up all the strengths of this way of life. There are about five hundred souls in Barley, and more than half of them are over sixty, quite a few well over eighty. It is a companionable village, and fairly compact, but because of its situation, set on a hill, it is badly placed for vehicles to negotiate the lanes in snow and ice. It was only two and a half days before the ploughs got to us, fast followed by the delivery vans, and before we ourselves could, albeit hazily, get out, but I have not enjoyed a time so well for years, or felt so at one with my neighbours, so useful and purposeful.

The young and the strong trudged through the snow to share supplies and take messages, the household

and elderly made hot drinks and received more visitors on those few days than often during weeks of normal life. Meals-on-wheels became meals-on-foot, the village school remained closed, but for once the pub was entirely full of locals only, and its car park was empty.

And all day children slid and tobogganed, ran and tumbled and peeted one another; standing at the window, I looked down at such scenes as Brueghel created, and at the end of the afternoons the lanes were lined with coloured gnomes, figures in woollen hats, the little ones half asleep, pulled on sledges or carried on shoulders, noses red as berries, hands raw as meat, voices hoarse with shouting. It was the most carefree, joyous of interludes, the world was as far off as the moon, and just as unreal, its doings could not touch us. I wanted it never to end.

But walking at dawn on Saturday, I heard the slip and slide and bump of loosening snow, the patter of rain on the windows. The sky was the colour of a gull's back and the snow just a little darker, already smirched and soiled-looking. The thaw had begun.

Next: Mr Ash the woodman
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Travel/edited by Shona Crawford Poole

Jamaica/Michael Watkins

Slow and stop in the sun

Years ago, on my first visit to Jamaica, I used to watch a man outside the house where I was staying. He was sitting under a cassia tree. One bare foot rested on the other knee and he had put his straw hat under his head for a pillow. He wasn't selling anything and he wasn't waiting for a bus, and it irritated me that he remained so long, so uselessly. Now, as an old Jamaican hand, I know the answer. He was sitting. And maybe thinking a little. And when he got around to it, he'd get up and go away.

Caribbean lifestyle operates at two speeds: slow and stop. To accept this is to preserve sanity, to reject it invites trauma. "Soon come", they say when you ask for breakfast/laundry-rented car - and never come at all. The telephone rings two thousand times before

anyone replies; then it's the wrong number. Electricity does eccentric things, like going out. Strange insects roam the bathroom floor. There are further insects, "No-see-ums" and "Momm-pums", small aeronautical creatures designed by our Heavenly Father to make us think better of mosquitoes.

It is not so much an intrinsic laziness or inefficiency as an adroitly sculptured way of life. A "boonoonoonos" way of life. "de-lightful", "marvellous" in Jamaican talk. There is only one way - go along with it or stay away.

I had stayed away too long. There has been trouble in Jamaica and I, along with the majority of regular visitors, had been too faint of heart to take a chance. In self-defence, it was quite a chance: gun murders, particularly in

the capital of Kingston, were a daily occurrence. Michael Manley, Prime Minister at the time, was accused of being a power-crazed totalitarian bent on delivering his country into the communist camp. The amber warning light glowed and Jamaica's powerful middle class tried to make a getaway. Foreign investment dried up; so too did tourism. It was said that many Jamaicans stole to survive.

Then, on October 30 1980, Edward Seaga, leader of the Jamaican Labour Party, was swept into power; since then he has convinced the world that the flirtation with Castro is at an end, that free enterprise reigns. More recently he has severed diplomatic relations with Cuba. Jamaicans began to smile again. "Smile", runs the full page advertising campaign in *The Daily Gleaner*, "it makes you better looking". So it does. It is also immensely reassuring when one returns, apprehensively, to the place you love.

Fort Antonio was my first Jamaican love. First love and other sorrows. We swam in bottomless Blue Lagoon and rafted along the Rio Grande. Errol Flynn started the rafting craze, and he built a house called Castle Comfort high on a hill where his widow, Patrice, still lives. At Christ Church the tower clock read 4.30 all day long and Mrs Petersen, black and handsome and old even then, sat in her local "obeah-man" shop on the right. John Crow, the caribbean vulture, wheeled above the forest, carried on the Undertaker's Wind; "duppies", ghosts who live in cotton trees, came out at night; the local "obeah-man" still worked in magic potions. People walked with the swinging boneless grace of panthers. Nothing much has changed in Port Antonio.

At Port Maria, in a house named Firefly Hill, Noel Coward perched in his mountain eyrie, bandaged in cigarette smoke, thinking beautiful thoughts. "Dear Boy", he said to me once, "pour me a ginger ale - simply riddled with brandy."

Still heading west along this north coast is Ocho Rios and two of my favourite hotels in the world, Plantation Inn and Jamaica Inn, where the scent of hibiscus and bougainvillea is in the air, and ackee and saltfish, pumpkin soup and cho-cho are on the menu. Here you can climb Dunn's River Falls, spectacular waterfalls that cascade on to the sands; and here, as the sun bloodies the horizon, you can drink rum punch, listen to the tree-trogs and thank whoever is in charge of these things that the warning lights have dimmed. We can return to

Jamaica; and that's a benediction in itself.

Ocho Rios is 67 miles from Montego Bay. You could drive straight there or you could leave the road for Arcadia which, arguably, is the most beautiful house on the island. It is owned by Heinz Simonitsch and he will not thank me for disclosing the fact. Rose Hall is easier to find; more sensational too, for it belonged to the White Witch, Anne Palmer, who got up to all manner of tricks with her slaves. Then the slaves tried a trick or two on their mistress, with the most bizarre result.

One could say perhaps that Montego Bay is like that. Sophisticated. Men wear off-the-shoulder dinner jackets; their wives dress glitteringly, like oil-rigs in the night. Tired women sunbathe at Doctor's Cave, killing time because they like it better dead. Wall-to-wall sunbathing, basted by the culinary juices of Ambre Solaire. But there's a superb retreat at Half Moon Club, owned by that same Heinz Simonitsch, where a cottage in the grounds is a moon-shot away from Throgmorton Street.

We are visitors in Negril, yet the trick of the place is that you are not made to feel so; you arrive and are manipulated into believing that you belong.

I am not saying that Negril is idyllic for those with advanced ideas on plumbing; what I do suggest is that it is here that you may come to grips with your host country. The tendency in the fleshpots of the globe is to merely acquiesce; the Negris are more demanding. Negril has young people (and not so young) who are exploring, experimenting, asking questions. Some smoke Ganja (illegally) some drink mushroom tea, a few become Rastafarians, get pregnant, run out of money. But all become better acquainted with Jamaica, which descends from a slave culture whose wounds went deep.

They have no good cause to like us; yet I believe they do. They have a way of looking at us with shy, indulgent smiles which come from a long way behind the eyes - a way of looking at us as if we, not they, are the children. Sometimes I think they are right.

Air Florida flies from Gatwick to Montego Bay; their office is 3 Woodstock Street, London W1R 1HD. Tel: 01-491 7475. Excursion fares, (maximum stay of 21 days) cost from £380.50 return. Further details and bookings concerning hotels mentioned in this article through: Windotel, 149, Sloane Street, London SW1X 9BZ. Tel: 01-730 7144.



Lazing away in Kingston town

Holiday discount news

In the grim grey days of February it sometimes seems that summer sunshine will never come - though Swans Summer Sunshine are offering no surcharges on April, May and June holidays. Thomson offer those who are still considering winter sports the SuperSki deal, with prices final and guaranteed against surcharges. You choose the date of departure, airport and resort airport, Thomson will choose the resort and hotel, for £143 for seven nights in March, in Spain, France, Austria, and Italy, subject to what is available.

Yugotours are also looking forward to April and May in their Budget holidays in Yugoslavia, Austria, Greece, Italy and Romania, from 14 United Kingdom airports - you choose the destination airport, but they choose the resort and hotel. Prices range from £92 for one week (Yugoslavia) to £196 for two weeks in Athens.

A six night air/coach tour of Florence, Rome and Sorrento is being offered by Global Holidays for £143 (half board in Florence and Sorrento, bed and breakfast in Rome) with a supplement of £8.75 per person for single rooms, leaving March 6 from Gatwick to Milan, returning March 12 from Rome, limited to 130 people.

Philippa Toomey

Destination	Nights	Company	Price	Save	Conditions
SKIING					
Adelboden, Sw	7/1/b	Small World*	£159	£40	Feb 28
Courchevel, France	7/14 s/c	Holiday Villas	£129/152	£30/38*	Feb 27
Santa Caterina, Italy	7/14/1/b	Swans	£96/187	£50	Mar 6, 13, 20, 27
Val Gerola, Italy	7/14/1/b	Swans	£75/152	£50	Mar 6, 13, 20, 27
Zermatt, Switzerland	7/14/1/b	Ski West	£159/219	£66/90	Feb 27
Meribel, France	7/14/1/b	Ski West	£159/219	£80/100	Mar 6
Verbier, Switzerland	7/14/1/b	Ski West	£159/209	£46/86	Mar 6
Courmayeur	7/14/1/b	Ski West	£129/169	£38/85	Mar 13
Val d'Isere, France	7 h/b	Club Mark Warner	£199	£40	Feb 27
Meribel	7/1/b	Ski MacG	£223	£25	Mar 6
Verbier	7/1/b	Ski MacG	£211	£16	Mar 20
Meribel	14/1/b	Ski MacG	£314	£30	Mar 13, 20
Malta	7 h/b	Portland*	£135	£24	Mar 5, 12 Luton
Tunisia	7/1/b	Portland	£129	£16	Mar 5, 12 Luton
Costa Brava	7/14/1/b	Enterprise	£97/97	£30/40	Mar 6, 13, 20, 27
Costa Blanca	7/14/1/b	Enterprise	£97/118	£30/40	Feb 28
Malta	7/14 s/c	Enterprise	£111/120	£30/35	Mar 11, 18, 25
Madrid	4 b & b	Pegasus	£130	£20	Feb 28
Munich	3 b & b	Pegasus	£145	£15	Mar 5 Luton
St Lucia	29 b	Pegasus	£547.80	£80	Feb 27 Heathrow
Florence	4 b	Pegasus	£130	£30	Mar 8 Luton
Athens	7 b & b	Thomson	£121	£40	Feb 28 Luton
Salzburg	3 b & b	Thomson	£79	£44	Feb 26 Luton
Eilat, Israel (Red Sea)	7 s/c	Travel	£199	£69	Mar 7
Morocco Tour/Costa del Sol	14 1/b-h/b	Tjareborg	£211	£40	Mar 5, 12 Gatwick & Manchester

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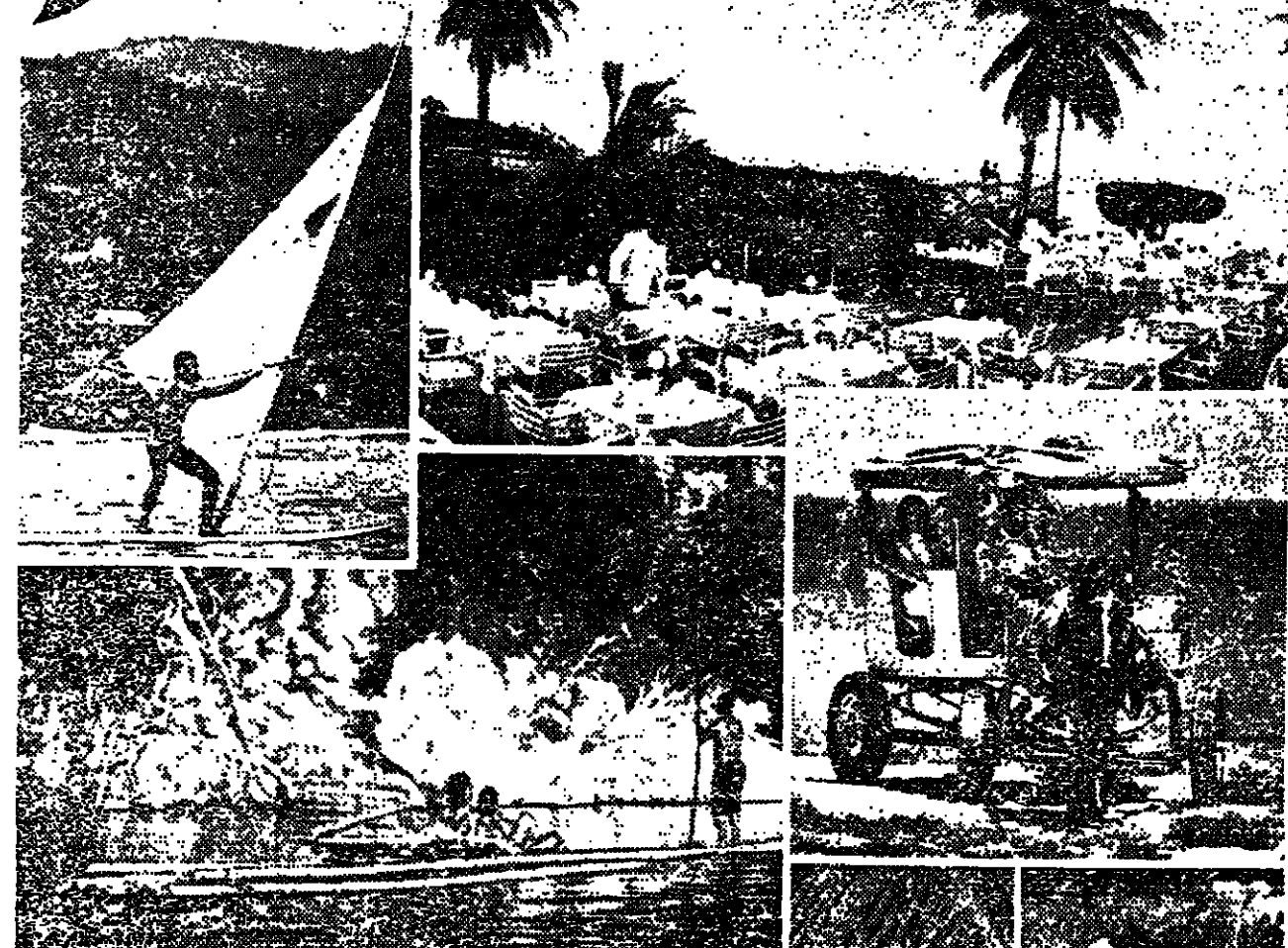
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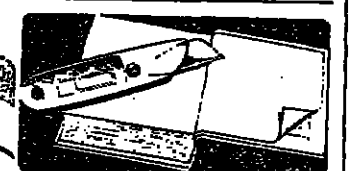
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THE TIMES Guide to getting things mended

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Devon: Sydney Delow, Kerswell, Liverton, Newton Abbot Bickington 611). Repairs, restiches, relines, replaces covers or renews. From £20 or minor repairs in a leather bound book. New gold tooling done, not old. Graduates' theses and magazines bound. Work done for British Museum. Visits within 50-mile radius.



First of a new series of models based on artist Norman Shelwell's vry view of not-so-easy riding. This learner driver is called An Angel on Horseback, by Beswick, £12.95 (£1 p & p) from F. R. Gray, 140 Birmingham Road, Aldridge, Birmingham. Also at Lawley's, Regent Street, W1, in March.

Where do you go to get your handbag re-styled or your deckchairs re-covered? Who will get rid of your bookworm (the one that eats, not borrows), or re-line your cigar box? Who can mend your elephant's tusk or your favourite gun? Shoparound asked readers for their recommendations — for there is no better guide than a satisfied customer — and this directory is the result.

Thank you all for your tremendous response. The list I have chosen cannot possibly be comprehensive — that would

take several pages — but I have tried to make it wide-ranging and widespread.

There were so many recommendations of china and furniture restorers and experts in cane and rush seating that these will be included in part two of the guide, next week. Also included will be restorers of textiles and lace, Oriental carpets, pearls and beads — even baths and violins.

Readers' recommendations are marked (R), the rest have been sent in by the restorers themselves, but in both cases I have contacted everyone personally.

London: Caroline Bendix, 1 Elm Park Road, SW3 (01-352 0429). Restoration of books and paper, gold tooling, new bindings, presentation copies. Visitors books rebound from £35. Visits in and around London. Telephone first for appointment.

(R) BookEnds Bindery, 1B Orlington Road, N7. (01-607 0511). All restoration and repair of antiquarian and modern books. Repair of paper. Gold tooling. Work done for colleges and museums. Full leather bindings from £55.

Sussex: (R) Camberwell School of Arts and Crafts, Peckham Road, SE5 (01-703 0987). All forms of paper conservation, restoration of photographs, family documents, parish archives, maps, charts. The college runs several courses, works with museums and can arrange for private work to be done.

Sussex: (R) Lamberlost Crafts, 27 Deane Road, Horsham (0403 52658). Antiquarian leather bound books. Paper repair and restoration. Delivery within 50 miles. Member of Society of Bookbinders.

Clocks

Dorset: Clock House, North Lodge Road, Parkstone (Parkstone 743505). Long case clocks and antique clocks from sixteenth century on — repaired and overhauled. Will travel within 50 miles.

Scotland: (R) Jocelyn Antiques, 161 West George Street, Glasgow (041 248 3024). Clock movements and cases restoration, including pocket watches, mantle and wall clocks, barometers. No

Electric or battery clocks

Also furniture restoration, French polishing, upholstery and cane repairs. Will collect in Glasgow area.

Somerset: (R) Terence Morris, 11 Fairwell Street, Bruton, (074 981 3448). All old clocks (not watches) in case, bracket and carriage. From £45 to £120, approximately. Also furniture restoration, repairs to veneer, brass inlay, French polishing and oil polishing. Will collect within 50 miles.

Sussex: (R) Mainly Clocks, 39 Tarrant Street, Arundel (Arundel 882871). Robert Beresford specializes in clock watches and musical boxes but will turn his hand to almost anything mechanical, like converting Victorian coin op toys to take 2p pieces. Mends "anything not completely derelict because I don't like to be beaten". Work done for Arundel Museum. Will travel within 70 to 80 miles.

Giltwood and Lacquer



London: Belinda Balfour, 2 Wallgrave Road, SW5 (01-373 7358). Lacquer and gilding on furniture, not frames, particularly 18th century gesso and antique japanned furniture. Some travelling. Will restore large pieces in situ.

(R) Ferenc Toth, 5 Cherubini Lane, Francoise Laverne, 59a King's Road (01-731 2063). Restoring of all antique mirrors in any condition, furniture and carvings. Regilding, recarving. Lacquer, special crackle finish. Marbelling, tortoiseshell, rag rolling; lacquering in original japanning technique and paper. Own mouldings. Will collect and deliver anywhere.

(R) The English Lacquer Shop, 81 Marchmont Street, WC1 (01-380 1483). All types of lacquer restoration undertaken. From filling in chips to "major surgery" — stripping completely and re-lacquering to original design. Small items to be brought in. Restorer will visit from Kent workshop to give estimates on larger pieces. Nothing too small or too big.

Surrey: (R) Barbe Restoration & Antiques Centre, Old Bakehouse Yard, Petworth Road, Haslemere (Haslemere 52428). Water gilding oil gilding, lacquer and papier mache restoration. Cabinet making and mother-of-pearl boxes, china, lace, pictures. Delivery within 60 miles. Can travel anywhere.

Glass

London: Annie Ross, Space Studios, Lower Road, Rotherhithe, SE16 (01-237 4430 or 981 3575). Stained glass repair and restoration including re-leading and hand painting in old Victorian techniques. Arrangements made for etching and sandblasting. Everything from front door panels to picture windows. Costs around £25 per sq. ft. Will travel.

Living Art, 35 Kenway Road, SW5 (01-370 2766). Chips on glass removed, antique glass repaired, silver collars put on decanters. Also china and clock mending, gilding and lacquering, bookbinding. Tuesday to Friday, 1.30pm to 6.30pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm.

Guns

Somerset: (R) A. W. Rule, 8 Parrett Close, Langport (0458 250649). Servicing and repair of quality guns by a Purdey trained gunsmith. Work done for several museums. Guns are loaned to clients.

Handbags and Luggage

London: (R) Handbag Services Co, 16 Beauchamp Place, SW3. (01-589 4975). All leather handbag repairs from £2. Crocodile a specialty. Petit point made into handbags. Some small luggage repairs — zips, handles. Mail order service anywhere.

Mayfair Trunks, 3 Shepherd Street, W1. (01-499 2620). Repairs to all types of luggage — handles, frames, zips, tears in leather, locks and briefcases. From £5. No delivery.

Ivory and inlay

Dorset: (R) N. Blades, The Workshop, 21 Princess Street, Dorchester (0305 68659). Restoration of ivory, small ornaments and mirror frames. Clock cases a specialty. Also mends fishing rods and walking sticks. Can arrange for repairs to china, silver, metalwork and cane. No travelling, but contact in London will act as a go between.

Shenstone Restorations, 135 Croft Road, Swindon (Swindon 44980). Blair and Caroline Shenstone restore ivory, mother-of-pearl, tortoiseshell, ebony and other woods, specializing in inlay and marquetry. Anything from tea-caddies and carved chess sets to chairs and tables. Also caning and rush seating from £20. Work done for dealers. Will travel within 30 mile radius and makes monthly visits to London.

Metalwork

Hertfordshire: Iron Things, 2 Hatfield Road, St Albans. (St Albans 64332). Will undertake almost anything made out of metal — "if it needs repairing we'll try to do it." Includes fire baskets, dog irons, wrought iron gates to re-bottoming, coalscuttles and re-tinning saucepans. Charges are about £3 per lb. No travelling. Kent: (R) Melvyn Pinnock, 4 St. Martin's Avenue, Canterbury (0227 63279). Works in any metal but pewter. Copies of brass handles and ornaments, ironwork restoration, hinges on harpsicords — "no job is too small". Reliable and reasonably priced, says one of his clients. Works mainly in the Kent area.

Plasterwork

Avon: Hayles & Howe, 37 Picton Street, Montpellier, Bristol. (0272 46673). All types of ornamental plaster — ceiling roses from £15, cornices, niches, fire surrounds. New and restoration work. Will travel anywhere.

Rocking Horses

Oxfordshire: Sarah Bromilow, 180 Reading Road, Henley-on-Thames. (049 12 77001). Repair and restoration of rocking horses in any state of disrepair, using metal, wood, leather and painting in Victorian style. Will travel in south east and south west.

Rope

Yorkshire: W. R. Outhwaite & Son, Town Foot, Hawes, North Yorks. (Hawes 487). Moody rope makers will make stair ropes with brass brackets; but will repair church bell ropes from about £16 per foot.

Stone

Northamptonshire: (R) Harrison Hill Ltd., Little Oakley Church, Nr. Corby. (0536 743876). Conservation, mainly of statues, including garden statues and church monuments. Stone, marble, alabaster, terracotta, stucco. Work for stately homes. Minimum charge of £20. Distance no object.

Silver, gold pewter

Devon: Silver Services, Corner Lane, Combe Martin, North Devon (0271-88 3361). Antique silver and gold restoration. Re-line cigar boxes, re-velvet jewel boxes, re-silver photograph frames, re-load candelabra, re-back hand mirrors. Ivory insulations on tea and coffee pots. Pewter repairs. Will travel.

Herefordshire: Timothy Blades, 54 High Street, Ross-on-Wye. (0989 64560). Repairs to small antique jewelry, Victorian scissor handles, pearl re-stringing, stone re-setting. Metalwork on violin bows a specialty. Likes to tackle unusual things — "I get a kick out of doing things people say can't be mended." No travel.

London: The Pewter Shop, 18 Burlington Arcade, W1. (01-493 1730). All types of antique and modern pewter restored by registered jewellers. Making of lids, handles, feet from original cast moulds. Polishing, removal of silver plate on pewter. Small items from £6, larger from £10. No travel.

Oxfordshire: Brenton West, 5 Park Lane, East Lockinge, Wantage (East Hendred 754). Works mainly in silver, some gold. Jewelry repairs (not claw settings), makes tops for salt cellars, ink stands. Three Goldsmiths awards for chasing and silversmithing. Area — anywhere in Oxon.

Tents

Surrey: (R) Atlas Display (Tent Hire Ltd), Avon Path, Avondale Road, South Croxall. (01-680 0367). Repair of scouting and other types of tents, removes mildew and will also re-canvas deck chairs and repair awnings.

Umbrellas

London: (R) James Smith, 55 Oxford Street, WC1 (01-636 7371). English umbrellas only. New ribs from £3, ferrules from 80p, wood ends from £1. Handles from £2 plastic, £6 lacquered to £100 ivory. No visits, no postal service.

Drinks/Pamela Vandyke Price Pre-budget finds

It is rightly advised that one should always "drink slightly more expensively than one can afford" because in this way adequately high standards are formed. The persons who limit themselves to middle-range wines tend to have middle-range notions about what good wine is, whereas those who vary modestly-priced bottles with the occasional wine that is, even a small scale, very good indeed within its class, will at least have their palates tuned to appreciate the best when it is available.

It should be realized, in this pre-budget period, that because at least £1.20 of the price of any bottle, cheap or costly, has nothing to do with the wine, even a slight extra — say, 20p to 30p — can bring enjoyment in terms of quality out of all proportion to cost. The £1.20 is made up from the cost of bottle, cork, label, any additional label, capsule, insurance, freight, duty, keeping, delivery, any handling charges at point of sale and, of course, VAT. If delivery has to be added, outside a region where merchants can provide this free, then at least £3 per case will have to be costed in, frequently more. So for putting away for consumption later this year, it is worth buying wines that will not get spoiled and — do offer special enjoyment.

Many merchants have decided to hold end of bin and remnant "sales", so definite price cuts can be seen on their mailing lists. There are oddments which the private buyer can find in the price range of about £5 which are likely to taste as well as cost far more expensive, even within the rest of this year. Remember that, these days, few firms can afford to give non-vintage champagne

"landing age", so the purchase of this, to put away for six months or so, will result in a marked emergence of quality.

Then there are the wines that have, for various reasons, been overshadowed by others, such as the 1977 clarets, as a possible opening disadvantage because they came after the fine 1975s, 1976s and before the 1978s. Laytons (27 Midland Road, NW1) have just issued an appraisal of what they call this "lost" vintage, having bought a careful selection.

These clarets are not imposing — they are beginning to be pleasant, providing the sort of drinking that is much appreciated at lunchtime, or to introduce a weighted wine at dinner. Laytons issue detailed tasting notes on their wines. Of these the Cos d'Estournel (1976) is a very fine and firm, displaying the craftsmanship of this property, the Figeac (1979) opening up with assertive style, and the red Graves, Domaine de Chevalier (1979) very much a "claret-lover's claret", displaying the spicy fragrance of the Graves, and compact style, seem especially worth trying. There is an assorted case of the twelve 1977s for £82.

Too much emphasis tends to be laid today on known names, in claret, but, perhaps because some of the bourgeois growers have had to "try harder", many of them offer admirable wines that I would prefer to certain named ones. Peter Dominic has the 1977 Chateau de Pez, a St. Estephe property whose owner has won great respect for his practice of vinifying a small amount of the different grapes separately each year, so that students and fortunate visitors can see the

contribution each makes, and how the final blend is triumphantly harmonious.

The 1977 is a little lightweight but drinkers who may have found St. Estephe wines rather hard, as far as some of the classed growths are concerned, will appreciate the amiability of this one, already offering much enjoyment (it costs £5.10). Another first-rate bottle is La Tour de By, A.C. Medoc; from the tower there is a superb view of the Gironde estuary and the owner has concentrated on adjusting both the proportions of the grapes he grows and his vinifications to the somewhat exposed site.

The 1976 La Tour de By is a really fine wine, deep, beginning to demonstrate its fruit and possessing much charm — it is hard to see how it can get better, but it definitely hasn't yet reached its peak. (£5.52 from branches of Penning & Cawson in East Anglia). They also have the beautiful, but by no means ready 1975 Margaux, Chateau d'Angludet for £6.16 — to put away for next year at earliest and to relish for its profundity and charm.

The still wines of Champagne can also be hard and, I sometimes think, are over-priced. This one, which is made only from the Chardonnay, at its ripe best, can give without straining to sweeten. This wine is delicious as an aperitif and is also sufficiently robust to be drunk with smoked salmon or, certainly, to be the white wine to go through a meal of spring lamb, veal, or roast chicken for those who cannot easily drink red.

Gardening/Roy Hay Spread a little tonic

□ We should now be thinking about the state of our soil after the above average rainfall of 1981. Plant nutrients are washed down to lower levels out of reach of plants' roots by excessive rainfall, lime and nitrogen particularly quickly. So gardeners on acid soil who normally apply lime would be advised this year to step up their rate of application by half.

Nitrogen, applied most often in the form of generous doses of sulphate of ammonia, will be doubly welcome to many plants this year — partly to compensate for the leaching and also to speed recovery from the recent frosts. Dressing of one or two ounces of sulphate of ammonia to the square yard for hardy flowers, vegetables, fruit trees and bushes and lawns would be helpful in addition to the dressing of general fertilizers that one would normally apply.

There is no great hurry to apply these nitrogenous fertilizers — the plants will not make much use of them until the recovery of soil to about 43 deg F. usually mid-March onwards, when active growth begins.

The recovery of plants weakened by the prolonged bitter spell will also be helped by an application of phosphate to stimulate root growth. One can apply a general fertilizer rich in phosphates such as Phostrogen or, if one prefers an organic fertilizer, there are several on the market, one of my favourites being the blood, bone and fish compound available in good garden stores. Or it may be had direct from A. W. Maskell, Stephenson Street, London E16 4SA, who offer a wide range of straight fertilizers and fertilizers compounded for various purposes.

Leaf feeding also encourages root growth. I start watering foliage feeds on to the leaves early, to the foliage of daffodils and other bulbs as soon as they have finished flowering and to other plants as soon as they have produced a good area of leaf.

□ This year it will really pay to analyse the soil in

various parts of the garden and it is fortuitous that the new, sophisticated but simple to use J. Arthur Bower's soil testing kit has just appeared. It makes more than 50 tests for pH (acidity/alkalinity), nitrogen, phosphorous and potash and the instructions indicate the amounts of the various chemicals needed if there are any deficiencies. It is available in garden shops at price £5.95, including postage, from Sainsbury's, culture, Brayford Pool, Lincoln.

I well remember how staggered I was by the various deficiencies revealed by the first tests I ever did in my garden. The first "do it yourself" amateur's kit I thought I had been treating the soil generously enough with manures and fertilizers so I sent samples to professional analysts who confirmed within very narrow differences my original tests.

We took a deep breath, bought the necessary amounts of fertilizer indicated by the tests and were amazed by the results that year and in subsequent years when we carried out the tests and applied the indicated fertilizers. Many gardeners fail to get their hoped for results simply because their soil is short of one or more of the essential plant foods.

□ My recent comments about big tomatoes brought a number of letters from readers, mostly endorsing my appreciation of the very largest, which may weigh anything from 1-2lb each. They agreed that these are the best for stuffing — I dish we see too rarely in British restaurants — and that the flavour of the 'Marmade' variety — for growing outdoors only — is excellent.

Now we have 'Furet' (3) a 'Marmade' type F1 hybrid said to be much earlier and more vigorous than other 'Marmade' types, giving heavy crops of good flavour. In cold areas where tomatoes have to be grown under glass 'Big Boy' (3,4) is the one to grow.

There have been several introductions of miniature tomatoes, plants that grow only a foot or so high and are thus suitable for growing on

a balcony, patio or even for pot culture on an office or kitchen windowsill. Most have not performed outstandingly with me but 'Mistral' (3,4) is well spoken of by friends who have grown it.

While not perhaps being heavy croppers, or enjoying resistance to diseases, I would always grow the golden tomatoes such as 'Golden Sunrise' (1,2,3) for their flavour alone. It is too sweet for some people but I think it is really first class. It is suitable for growing under glass or outdoors.

Sources: (1) Dodies, (2) Suttons, (3) Thompson & Morgan, (4) Unwins Seeds.

□ I mentioned recently that we could always grow our own mustard and cress for a bit of greenstuff in our diet until the first of the summer vegetables come to harvest in May or June. If you frequent Chinese restaurants I am sure you will have made the acquaintance of Mustard & Cress. It is really first class. It is suitable for growing under glass or outdoors.

They are crisp and tasty and may be grown indoors in glass jars ready for eating from four to nine days after sowing. All the firms mentioned above offer these seeds with instructions for growing them. Incidentally, I don't know if this applies elsewhere, but in our part of the world we can only buy mustard — cress seems to have disappeared. I wonder why.

□ The "Mustard & Cress Society" which was formed in 1977 now has a worldwide membership and is arranging, conjunction with the University of London, Department of Horticulture, a study conference at Westfield College, University of London, from April 1 to 3. Those taking part, members and non-members, may be fully resident or non-resident. A full programme has been arranged and particulars may be obtained from Room 255 (E.M.C./R.H.B.), University of London, Department of Extra Mural Studies, 26, Russell Square, London, WC1B 5DQ. (Tel 01-636 8000 ext. 104).

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Light last fling

Batter made with white flour should be rested for about half an hour. Either type may be thinned by

Apple and honey pancakes
Serves six

450g (1lb) crisp dessert apples, preferably coxes

into a very cool (110°C/225°F, gas mark 1/4, about five minutes to warm the filling a little. Serve immediately.

of this type are Sammy Reshevsky and Arturito Pomar, both of them very small, which may well explain how Sammy seemed to remain

Short. I was struck by a maturity of style, displaying a positional knowledge of which mature players would have been proud.

originate in Hungary and played in the Budapest tournament under the name of H. Stoner.

White has to sacrifice a whole Rook here since after 9. P×N=Q ch, K×Q; 10Q N4, B×R; 11. B-N5, Q-K1; 12. B-B6 Q-B2; 13. B-K5 N-B3; 14. B-

20	Q-N3	R-K1
21	K-B1	Q-OSP ch
22	K-N2	N-B4
23	Q-R3 ch	P-Q3

resians

The mighty midgets

Reshevsky and Arturito Pomar, both of them very small, which may well explain how Sammy seemed to remain

maturity of style, displaying a positional knowledge of which mature players would have been proud.

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21 Q-N3 R-K1
22 K-B1 QxQBP ch
23 K-N2 N-B4
24 Q-R3 ch P-Q3

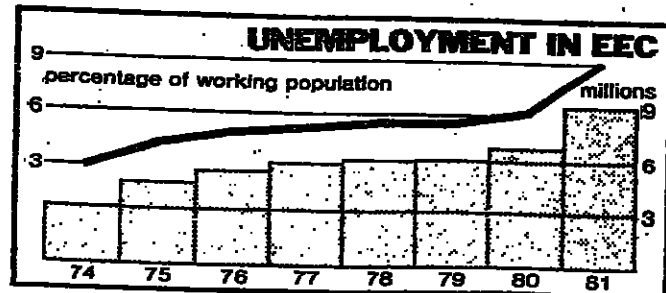
resigns.

this table is published on Wednesday and Saturday—FT change on week 562.3-8.2 (1.44%)

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BUSINESS NEWS

Jobless record



January unemployment in the European Community climbed to a record 9.5 per cent, or 10.8 million workers, from 9.1 per cent and 10.3 million in December. It was the seventh consecutive month that average unemployment in the EEC rose to a post-war high. A year earlier the jobless rate was 7.5 per cent or 8.5 million people.

Steel pricing optimism

Insufficient evidence will quash the remaining 38 cases of unfair pricing still outstanding in the United States against European steelmakers, the European Commission said yesterday. Its statement came after the United States International Trade Commission decided there was insufficient evidence of injury against United States steelmakers in 54 out of 92 cases. The commission said it would continue to watch over the remaining cases to ensure the GATT rules were strictly observed.

British Gas briefs staff

British Gas has put off announcing its planned 23 per cent increase in domestic gas charges until early next week, in order to have more time to brief staff at its 800 showrooms on the need for the higher tariffs, the corporation said yesterday. The delay follows complaints by consumers about the increases, scheduled to be introduced in two stages, a 12 per cent increase in April and 10 per cent in October.

Australian deal for De Beers

De Beers, the South African mining company which dominates the world diamond business, will market stones from the huge Argyle deposit in Western Australia if negotiations between the Central Selling Organization and the partners in the Ashton Joint Venture, which owns Argyle, are successful.

388 jobs go

Metal Box is to shed 388 jobs at its factories in South and East London and Aintree, near Liverpool as part of a rationalization programme. The factory at Riley Road, Merseyside, which employs 270 people, is to be closed.

The Clapton plant is to lose 41 jobs, and Aintree 77 jobs, to reduce operating costs and improve profit performance, the company says.

The Association for the Conservation of Energy, a pressure group formed by companies in the house-building industry, called yesterday on the Government to increase grants for energy saving measures in the home in the Budget.

The Merseyside Development Corporation has approved £12m of reclamation work in the redundant South Docks and riverside areas of Toxteth and Dingle on the Mersey.

MARKET SUMMARY

Flurry in TV shares

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 562.3 up 0.1
FT 100s 66.19 up 0.64
FT all-share 325.51 up 0.42
Bargains 16,991

Television shares dominated what little interest remained yesterday after a speech by Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister of Information Technology, at the City analysts' annual dinner on Thursday night. Mr Baker indicated that the Government might give the go-ahead for the development of Cable television by the commercial companies.

This produced a flurry of activity in shared life Electronic Rentals up 6p to 94p and Thom EMI up 7p to 475p.

But with the rest of the market, turnover remained disappointing and the FT index closed 0.1 up to 562.3, having opened 2.0 down at 10am.

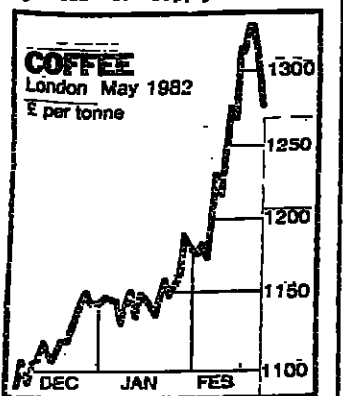
In gilt activity was restricted to shorts where hopes that the "tap" Exchequer 13½% 1987 might be exhausted in early trade proved unfounded. Nevertheless, rises of up to 3½ were reported by the close.

Brokers Griesener Grant have upgraded their full year forecast for Marks & Spencer, unchanged at 140p, following a better than expected second half performance. The figures due out next month are expected to show an increase in pre-tax profits from £180m to £215m.

British Home Stores has also been doing the rounds in the City, and in spite of a 30 per cent shortfall in profits in the first half is expected to make up much of the leeway following a good Christmas. Analysts are now upgrading profits from £35m to

COMMODITIES

A weaker New York market and some commission house selling pushed coffee down to its lowest levels for the week. March closed at £1,363 a tonne, a decline of £26, while May was down by £32 to £1,277 a tonne. Trading was generally quiet, but dealers reported an underlying lightness of supply.



Tin prices also eased but late trading saw a burst of borrowing, similar to the previous day. About 1,500 tonnes of cash metal was borrowed for a day up to the maximum permitted premium of £120 a tonne. Cash tin ended the day £85 lower at £8,630 a tonne.

OTHER EXCHANGES

Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,280.92 up 23.02
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 7,713.31 up 29.55

CURRENCIES

The dollar was again easier as United States interest rates eased. Sterling reached \$1.86 at one stage.

LONDON CLOSE

STERLING \$1.8540 up 20 points
DM 4.3850 down 0.1
Yen 114.400 down 0.5
DOLLAR Index 111.9 down 0.8
DM 2.3637 down 130 pts
GOLD \$367.50 down \$2.25

MONEY MARKETS

Period rates eased slightly in sympathy with lower Eurodollar rates. The Bank bought £433m of bills in response to a £450m shortage.

£386m profit brings big rise in Lloyds Bank dividend

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Lloyds Bank opened the reporting season for the big clearers yesterday with a £386m rise in 1981 profits to a record £386m before tax. The figures were well up with best outside forecasts and Lloyds also pleased the City with the big rise of one-third in the final dividend. This leaves the year's payment to shareholders up by a quarter to 30.54p and the shares rose 11p to 481p with other bank shares up in sympathy.

Outside the City, however, the results may raise eyebrows. Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman, gave a

warning a year ago when attacking the windfall profits tax that the future was not bright and bank profits had reached their cyclical peak.

Yesterday he emphasized that a strong world-wide performance was behind the bank's growth. Lloyds Bank International, the main overseas arm, boosted profits from £64.5m to £120.6m before tax as reported in November and Sir Jeremy said better control of costs, the fall in sterling and increased market share had also helped towards higher operating profits.

Sir Jeremy added that retained profits, which were needed for the bank to grow, were down because of the windfall profits tax — which cost Lloyds £58.6m leaving retentions down by £15m to £157m and from £47m to £24m on a current cost basis — but despite this the bank's free capital ratio was unchanged at over 19:1.

Although average base rate was 3 per cent lower at 13.3 per cent in 1981, Lloyds benefited from higher lending volumes and a bigger spread between the rate paid to borrowers and depositors. Helped by the

inclusion of Lloyds & Scottish, the finance house, as a subsidiary for the last six months, the domestic contribution to operating profit rose from £171m to £207m. Sir Jeremy said that as the proportion of non-interest bearing accounts declined, the bank's profits were becoming less cyclical.

Lloyds had no plans to pay interest on current accounts because it did not think customers wanted it.

Bad debt provisions rose sharply for the group from £68m to £85.7m.

Little cheer as output rises slightly

By David Blake, Economics Editor

Britain's economy expanded slightly in the last three months of 1981, according to official figures published yesterday. But growth was almost entirely because of extra fuel production to meet the demands of the cold weather, which suggests that the recovery in output is slow and uncertain.

Once growth in the North Sea is stripped out of the figures, the economy appears hardly to have moved at all at the end of last year. The index of output excluding oil and gas went up by a negligible amount, from 100.7 to 100.8, compared with a 1975 level of 100.

For the economy as a whole the growth was slightly larger, with an increase between the third and fourth quarters of 0.3 per cent, from 104.5 to 104.8.

The figures are distorted by the bad weather at the end of last year, which boosted energy demand but depressed the rest of the economy. There was also a particularly long Christmas holiday in 1981, which reduced the amount of working time.

All of these special factors do not remove the point that the economy is proving very

sluggish in its recovery from the recession.

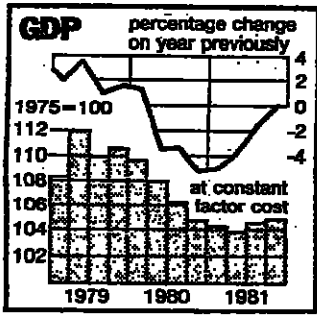
Figures produced earlier this week showed that industrial production fell by more than 1 per cent in December and there are some tentative signs that companies are trying to run down their stocks again in expectation of weak demand. There is also growing evidence that consumers, who have kept up their spending through the darkest days of recession, are at last starting to cut back. Redundancies continue at a steady pace.

The Government expects output to rise slowly in the rest of 1982, though it recently indicated that it expected slightly more than the 1 per cent growth forecast in early December. It expects output to take off in 1983 as the world economy picks up.

Most private forecasts expect growth of 1 to 2 per cent this year, though a United States survey of its members says that demand will stay flat for the next four months or so.

The latest figures, published by the Central Statistical Office, are the first estimate made for total gross domestic product at the end of last year. They are based on the output measure, one of the three ways of measuring GDP, and the one that is usually thought most reliable. But they may be revised later.

The figures fit in with warnings by Mr Francis Pym, Leader of the Commons, of the difficulties the Government faces in the months ahead, but they do little to ease the problems of the Chancellor.



City optimistic US rates have peaked

By John Whitmore

Hopes that United States interest rates may have peaked created a more optimistic mood in financial markets yesterday.

With Eurodollar interest rates earlier again and the key Fed funds rate down to 14½ per cent in early New York dealings, the dollar again lost ground, though not to the extent of Thursday.

In London trading the dollar closed 13 pennings lower at DM2.3637, well down on the DM2.40 level it reached on Monday. The pound also improved, though falling to hold its best gains, at \$1.8540, up 20 points better at \$1.8540, up briefly rising above \$1.86.

More confident bidding at the weekly Treasury bill tender cut the average rate of

discount at which bills were allotted from 13.78 to 13.61 per cent. In money markets period rates tended to ease slightly.

Gilt disappointed some brokers after the strong overnight performance of the United States bond market. Even so, long dated stocks made fresh gains of up to 75p, and the government broker was able to sell more of the short term Exchequer 13½ per cent 1987.

The equity market was rather more subdued. After the fresh anxiety that greeted last week's United States money supply figures on Monday, the market quickly discounted the mid-week rise in prime lending rates.

'Unenviable position' of ACC shareholders outlined

Shareholders in Associated Communications Corporation would be in an "unenviable position," if the courts refused to block the £36m takeover bid for the company by Australian entrepreneur, Robert Stamler, a City analyst said yesterday.

Mr Samuel Stamler, QC, for Heron International and a number of other shareholders in ACC, said they would be deprived of the chance of getting other bids.

The Appeal judges, Lord Justice Templeman and Lord Justice Brightman, have already been told that Mr Gerald Ronson's Heron Corporation is willing to offer £36m for ACC.

Mr Stamler said if the court were to refuse to grant injunctions blocking the takeover at £36m, which was approved by the ACC board on January 15, shareholders would be left with nothing but 66p a share and the hope



Sir Kenneth: 'would-be South Seas rum runner'

The gospel according to Cork

By Peter Wainwright

Tall, stooping, spare, autocratic, commanding respect rather than affection; social when it suits, but by nature solitary, and assertive when it counts; industrious by fits and starts, Sir Kenneth Cork has turned company receiver-ship into a form of life saving, and Mr Paul Shewell will be performing a delicate operation to keep De Lorean ticking over.

Sir Kenneth, aged 69, seems a natural to be among the great and the good. He is a great churchgoer. Ennobled in 1978 as Lord Mayor of London, he told the Archbishop of Canterbury, one of his guests, that greed and inflation were contrary to Christ's teaching: "Therefore, your Grace, I think the

Church should not remain silent as it is at the moment." Inflation, he said sternly on another occasion, is "trying to make out of the community more than you put in".

History does not record what His Grace told the new Lord Mayor in reply but it prompted Canon Eric James, Canon Missioner of St Albans, to write to *The Times*: "Last night on television we were shown the dinner the Lord Mayor of London set before the guests at his banquet: soup, baron of beef, breasts of pheasant, trifle, washed down with sherry, a couple of wines, port, brandy and liqueurs."

"His guests, from banking, livery companies and so on,

did not strike me as preeminently Pharaoh's lean kind

"Perhaps the Lord Mayor, and his guests, would consider sending the price of their meal — 'For what we have received — to the World Development Movement'."

Sir Kenneth is however better known for saving money rather than spending it. After Berkhamsted public school and service with the Honourable Artillery Company during the war when he served with Eisenhower in North Africa and as a Lieutenant-Colonel ran the whole of the British army's catering in Italy after hostilities ended, he represents much that is typical in the City.

EEC to investigate pricing of cars

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Feb 19

A thorough overhaul of the way car import and export restrictions are handled between European Community countries has started after widespread pressure.

Herr Frans Andriessen, the commissioner responsible for competition inside the Community, is to start consultations with governments in the next few days with the aim of drawing up a draft regulation to control the trade.

A draft regulation has been in existence for some time. But the European office of consumer unions claims it is "a disaster" which is so complicated that it is useless. "It would definitely not be in the consumers' interests if it were adopted," a spokesman said.

A report by the consumer unions last October highlighted the problem, showing that British cars in Britain cost more before tax than anywhere else in the Community. This led to questions in the House of Commons and a series of letters to the Commission which ended in the decision to investigate

and draw up an improved regulation.

So far the Commission has obtained copies of documents from British Leyland and the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders as a start to building a new dossier. Other manufacturers in the Community are also to be investigated.

In addition the consumer unions are asking the Commission to examine the compatibility of certain national laws on importing new cars from other member states with provisions of the Treaty of Rome governing quantitative restrictions on the import of goods.

British Leyland saw its sales of cars in Italy jump 71 per cent last year — from 15,045 to 25,835. This was a better performance than any other manufacturer and was largely due to the introduction of the Mini Metro. Although the foreign manufacturer in Italy sold 704,357 cars against 674,856 in 1980, Renault remained foreign market leader though its sales slipped slightly.

Poles settle most of debt problems

By Our Banking Correspondent

Poland has paid nearly all the interest and capital on its loans overdue from 1981. Bankers are increasingly confident that the way will soon be clear for signing of the agreement to reschedule \$2,400 (£1.29m) of Polish loans, which was originally reached last year but delayed because of Poland's failure to pay the last of the \$500m interest and principal promised by the end of 1981.

A spokesman for Bank of America in San Francisco said yesterday: "We have now been substantially paid and are continuing to receive payments".

In London Lloyds Bank said only

\$650,000 of interest was outstanding compared with over \$5m overdue at one stage. Lloyds refused to comment on the size of its Polish bad debt provisions although its international banking subsidiary recently boosted overall bad debt provisions from £19m to £44m.

Privately, bankers in London are now confident that remaining 1981 interest will be paid and that the rescheduling agreement can be signed next month.

"We are optimistic of signing within the first fortnight of March," said one banker yesterday.

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High speed telecommunications challenge

Mercury prepares its quicksilver service

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

The issue of a domestic operating licence this week to the Mercury private telecommunications consortium, led by Cable & Wireless, is one of the most important results of the Government's policy to liberalize the British telecommunications industry.

Since the intentions of the Government were made public in July 1980 by Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Industry at the time, the liberalization programme has become a highly sensitive political issue.

The British Telecommunications Bill which made competition possible and separate the telecommunications network, part of the Post Office from posts by the formation of British Telecom an independent company, was passed last July and came into effect in October.

However before the passing of the Act, the private sector was already responding to the challenge of competition. The Mercury consortium led by Cable & Wireless in partnership with Barclays Merchant Bank and BP emerged as the one most favoured by the Department of Industry.

It was left to British Telecom to negotiate with the consortium, on how Mercury would interconnect with the existing national telecommunications network.

Mercury submitted its plans to the Department of Industry giving details of a network which would initially cost £50m and would use about 800 miles of fibre optic cabling and microwave radio links.

By October of last year the Mercury consortium had been issued with a letter of intent from the Government, despite the protestations of British Telecom that its own tariffs would rise because of competition.

The corporation claimed that the Mercury network would cream off revenue generated by business users

which has subsidized domestic users for a long time. British Telecom has about 15 million residential subscribers, but its 4 million business users contribute about 60 per cent of its revenue.

Mercury said that without access to international circuits independent of British Telecom it would withdraw its application.

In the end it acquired the right to lease private international circuits and have its own satellite earth station and British Telecom retained control of all international traffic through the public network.

The licence covers a period of 25 years

Oakeshott: 'terror of the investment trusts'

When Matthew Oakeshott started running the £300m Courtaulds Pension Fund, in March last year, he came to it with a few definite ideas. He has been putting some of them into practice since, to the terror of the investment trust sector, which is the initial object of his attentions.

He says investment trust shareholders should have a better deal: they should be able to sell at prices which more nearly reflect the value of the underlying assets in their funds. Well, no-one would disagree with that. But how is it to be achieved?

Most trust managers would say it is to be done by friendly persuasion, but friendly persuasion is a tactic for the longer term, and as Mr Oakeshott (quoting Keynes) observes, in the longer-term, we shall all be dead. He wants quick results, and he has applied himself to this sector because he thinks there is a good chance of getting them.

He could, of course, realise his profits by buying up trusts in the market and incorporating the assets into his funds at market value. That is the course the coal board pension funds took a couple of years ago, when Mr Oakeshott was making his acquaintance with the sector as one of the Warburg team that was advising them.

But buying up trusts wholesale takes a fair amount



Matthew Oakeshott: the man at the head of the £300m Courtaulds Pension Fund

of cash, and Mr Oakeshott does not have that kind of ammunition. Investment income apart, little more is coming into the Courtaulds pension fund than is going out of it, and while he raised the £15m required to buy up Grange Trust last November (from the proceeds of the gifts which he inherited and sold), he could not keep it up without more heavy sales elsewhere.

So he has been picking trusts that are persuadable instead. He persuades them of the benefit of unification. Failing that, with a bit of

luck he might be able to persuade someone else of the benefits of buying them — at, of course, a price that gives him a handsome profit on his holdings. That is why he has been building up significant stakes in a small range of trusts with similar characteristics — not too big, no cross holdings, reasonable portfolio, and a handsome discount while he's picking up shares. There is, for instance, Dundee and London, General Scottish, Murray Gleneden, and Scottish Ontario, all of which have assets of less than £25m.

It won't necessarily do to follow him, though. He thinks now that the sector is not nearly as attractive as it was, and he has started selling. What is next? Well, he says, the property sector has rather similar characteristics. Don't get him wrong, though. He is not going in for universal asset stripping. He thinks there is an excellent case for holding investment trusts as an investment — an excellent case, that is, for someone else.

Adrienne Gleeson

Ensuring a fair deal for house-holders

The confrontation between the building societies and Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of the Office of Fair Trading, over house owners' choice of property insurance raises more than one question. But for the individual house owner the first must be: how satisfactory is my own insurance, and is a cheaper deal possible?

Complaints being studied by Mr Borrie indicate that at least with a few societies much less has been done to widen the insurance choice than Mr Borrie had hoped for following last October's change in model rules for building societies by the

Building Societies' Association (BSA). The change left it open for individual societies not to insist on being agents for arranging insurance cover. The main result of the present agency system is that a society gets the commission on the insurance deal, although it is claimed that there are cost advantages arising from administrative simplicity particularly with block insurance arrangements between societies and insurers.

The agency issue may well turn out to be the crucial one between the societies and Mr Borrie, who might launch

his own formal investigation under the Competition Act after which a case could be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for judgment on whether the public interest is suffering.

Certainly complete freedom of choice could be bought at some cost. The societies argue with some force that their block policies and the overall administrative convenience, if scrapped, could mean an increase in borrowing rates of about 0.15 per cent. Insurance companies on their side could face more administrative costs.

What is clear — the agency issue apart — is that building

societies are not falling over themselves to point out to borrowers what options they already have.

Practice varies. Some societies offer three or more alternatives. Aside from the agency question, the main argument of the building societies is that the present system at least ensures that they, and their members are properly covered. And owners who have a bad claims record, will not if they insure through their building society, run the risk of not having their own renewed.

Derek Harris

For doctors' benefit

When Doctor Jenny Dyson's husband gave up work after suffering a series of strokes and heart attacks she asked her pension fund, The National Health Superannuation Scheme — if he would grant her a widowers' pension should she predecease him. Doctor Dyson, like the other 20,000 married women doctors in the NHS scheme, makes the same pension contributions as her male colleagues, and has the same retirement age. But she had no right to a pension which male doctors receive automatically. She says: "I have made pension contributions for nearly 20 years. If I was a man my widow would automatically receive about half my pension. Because my husband was ill and could not work I was naturally anxious to secure the same sort of benefits for him."

But despite the fact that a quarter of the doctors in the NHS scheme are women making equal contributions their husbands do not get automatic widowers' benefits. Far from it. And although there are arrangements in the scheme for providing dependants benefits proving a need is, as Dr Dyson discovered, a harrowing process.

"It was all very humiliating," she says. "I wrote to the superannuation office and took the advice of the British Medical Association which is now supporting the pension rights of women doctors."

"Eventually I was told that to prove dependency I would have to get a doctor's certificate saying that my husband was incapable of supporting himself because of the state of his health. I found that amazing because he was already 65 years old, at normal retirement age, by this time."

The necessary certificate her husband had to give his consent, because of his medical confidentiality. This he did. But as Dr Dyson points out "consenting to a certificate saying that you



Dr Lotte Newman: the Government claims it is too expensive to change the system

are wholly dependent on your wife is not the sort of thing men like to do."

Dr Dyson managed to get her husband classified as a dependant within the terms of the NHS pension scheme but she, and many other women doctors, are distressed that widowers' pensions are not paid in the same way as widows' benefits since they are paying as much in pension contributions as a man.

The humiliation and difficulties involved in proving dependency rub salt into the wounds that only establishing proper equality in pension schemes will heal.

The Medical Women's Federation has been campaigning to get the terms of the NHS pension scheme changed. MWF Honorary Secretary Dr Lotte Newman thinks it is scandalous that women doctors should be discriminated against in this way, especially as we have a woman Prime Minister.

"If Mrs Margaret Thatcher predeceased her husband he would get a widowers' pension," she says.

"But for us nothing has changed, although a recent ruling in the European Court indicates we may be making progress." Last week the

European Court ruled that British Rail was guilty of sex discrimination in not extending to husbands and children of retired British Rail employees the same travel concessions they gave to dependants of retired male workers.

Pension benefits are outside the scope of the Sex Discrimination Act, although, to give it its due, the Occupational Pensions Board pointed out the "anomalies" some years ago. Still, the majority of schemes, including the cave-man notion that the man is the main breadwinner.

Even where it can be proved he is not, the discriminatory arrangements for dependants benefits smack of the Victorian workhouse. The pensions industry is struggling to solve the problems of job leavers and transferability, with the prodding of the Government. There is sympathy for men who change jobs and find they will not get two thirds of final salary on retirement. No one seems to care for the millions of women that are being discriminated against, however, of all the married ranks of pin-striped gentlemen attending this week's National Association of Pension Funds conference.

According to a NAPP survey only a "quarter" of occupational pension schemes offer widowers' benefits on the same terms as widows' pensions. The rest may, like the NHS scheme, offer dependants benefits, on a discretionary basis.

Dr Lotte Newman says: "The Government claim it is too expensive to change the system while money is tight."

But pensions experts claim that giving widowers' pensions automatically would cost very little. Women live longer than men. Most will outlive their husbands. Financially it would be a cheap benefit. As things stand the majority of married women paying into pensions are being cheated.

MONEY TALK Children's guide to saving

National Savings has produced a guide for parents on the schemes available for children. "National Savings for the young" includes information on the tax implications of its range of products. The National Savings Bank Investment Account is ideal for children since interest is paid gross, any child over seven can open an account with a minimum deposit of £1. Children can buy National Savings Certificates. But as one young reader of the Times wrote to point out this week, the 23rd issue is only available in units of £25. Way beyond the reach of most children who want to learn to invest their money properly.

Benefits check

This week the Government produced a White Paper outlining plans for dealing with the increasing mountain of forms we all have to wade through. Today's also published its new exhaustive guide "Social Security and State Benefits" — a detailed explanatory handbook of the hundreds of welfare benefits which produce much of the ridiculous paperwork against which we all now being officially waged.

Tolley's excellent new book is at £7.95 hardly aimed at those on social security. But it will be of infinite use to social workers, charity organisations, divorce lawyers, personnel officers and others who have to grapple daily with the system on behalf of others.

Tolley's guide is written by Jim Macdonald and Nigel Lambert. Published by Tolley Publishing, 209 High Street, Croydon, Surrey. Price £7.95.

Low premium

A new low premium house-hold contents insurance policy for the elderly has been launched by Alexander Howden in conjunction with the Charity Age Concern England. The minimum sum insurable is £2,000 for a premium of £7. The maximum is £25,000 at a premium of £28 a year. Jewellery and valuables are covered up to 10 per cent of the sum insured. The basis of the cover is "indemnity" — second hand values except for articles three-years-old or less.

Rates reduced

The Gateway is the latest building society to drop differential mortgage rates. The rate of 15 per cent will apply to all new borrowers immediately and to existing ones from the beginning of April this year.

Going west for a 100% mortgage

One of the perennial problems for first time homebuyers is finding the initial deposit as well as using money to cover the legal fees, survey costs, and increasingly the Stamp Duty, involved in buying a house. With banks and building societies in keen competition for first time buyers, the welcome introduction of 100 per cent mortgage offers.

First off the mark was the Bristol & West Building Society offering 100 per cent mortgages to applicants in regular employment and with a prospect of advancement, who were able to demonstrate their financial credibility. Financial credibility, in this case, means they must have saved between 5 per cent and 10 per cent of the purchase price.

So it is little help for those who cannot save anything out of their income, but good news for others who can use what would have gone in deposit, to meet the other expenses of buying and setting up home.

The B & W scheme covers mortgages to first time buyers for a maximum of £25,000 and 100 per cent loans will also be available for young couples taking out a mortgage under the 1st time scheme, which offers loans at a reduced rate of 14½ per cent up to £15,000.

For those who find it impossible to raise any capital at all, Lloyds Bank is offering 100 per cent advances on homes costing up to £30,000. No saving is required

although you must be a "creditworthy purchaser".

However, 100 per cent mortgages are available elsewhere, according to rivals, although they have not so far been pushing the idea as vigorously. Many building societies are permitted to lend this amount, but finding one that will do so may be another matter. Lloyds and Bristol & West are eager for the business.

Customers should be aware, however, that the 100 per cent mortgage may not be the total answer to the problem. The advance will be 100 per cent of the bank or building society valuation, which might in some cases be lower than the purchase price. You will have to find the difference.

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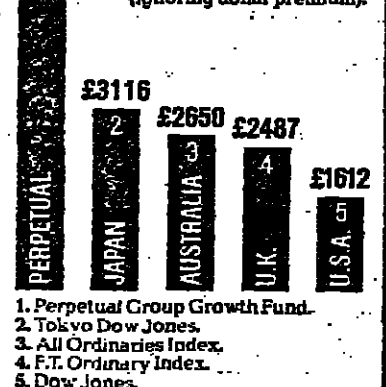
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First name(s) in full

Address

Signature(s)

(Joint applicants must all sign and attach names and addresses separately.)

T120/2

CRESCENT JAPAN INVESTMENT TRUST PLC

Summary of the Report for the year ended 31 December 1981

- Net asset value per share at 31 December 1981 was 349.7 pence as compared with 239.2 pence a year earlier.
- Statistics circulated by The Association of Investment Trust Companies show the company as the best performing member trust in 1981 in terms of both net asset value and share price.
- Dividend of 1.50 pence proposed as compared with 0.95 pence for 1980; an increase of 57.9 per cent.
- Shareholders' funds were 100 per cent invested in Japanese equities at 31 December 1981.
- Important features in 1981:
 - (i) The policy of seeking out interesting growth stocks in high technology areas remained unaltered.
 - (ii) Recently pharmaceutical, interest rate sensitive and certain selected consumer related stocks have been included in the portfolio.

NEW TOKYO INVESTMENT TRUST PLC

Summary of the Report for the period ended 31 December 1981

- Net asset value per share at 31 December 1981 was 124.3 pence; the shares were issued on 2 December 1980 at 100 pence per share.
- Statistics circulated by The Association of Investment Trust Companies show the company as the fourth best performing member trust in 1981 in terms of net asset value.
- No dividend is proposed; capital appreciation is the primary objective of the company.
- Shareholders' funds were 98 per cent invested in Japanese equities at 31 December 1981.
- Important features in 1981:
 - (i) Portfolio now consists of holdings in 42 small to medium sized Japanese companies.
 - (ii) Substantial exposure to new technology, particularly in office automation and industrial electronics has been an important feature of investment policy.

Copies of these reports may be obtained from EDINBURGH FUND MANAGERS LIMITED, 4 Melville Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7JB. Telephone: 031-226 4931.

Stock Exchange Prices

Gilts remain firm

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began Feb 15. Dealings End Feb 25. Contango Day, Mar 1. Settlement Day, Mar 2.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

1981/82 High Low Stock	Price	Chg	Yield	1981/82 High Low Company	Price	Chg	Yield	1981/82 High Low Company	Price	Chg	Yield	1981/82 High Low Company	Price	Chg	Yield	1981/82 High Low Company	Price	Chg	Yield
BRITISH FUNDS				COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company			
SHORTS				A-B				O-S				High Low Company				High Low Company			
1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000
MEDIUMS				I-L				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company			
LONGS				M-N				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company			
COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN				T-Z				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company			
LOCAL AUTHORITIES				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company			
DOLLAR STOCKS				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company			
BANKS AND DISCOUNTS				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company			
BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company			
SHIPPING				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company			
MINES				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company			
OIL				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company			
PROPERTY				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company			
INVESTMENT TRUSTS				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company			
INSURANCE				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company			
STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company			
MONEY MARKET				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company			
OTHER MARKETS				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company			
DOLLAR SPOT RATES				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company			
Euro-Deposits				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company			
GOLD				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company			
RECENT ISSUES				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company			
RIGHTS ISSUES				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company				High Low Company			

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French shake-up gives little hope

£100,000 Tournament
Strasbourg, February 19.—John Enroe, and the Czechoslovak players, Ivan Lendl and Thomas Muster, are to compete in the £100,000 (£162,000) World Championship Tennis (WCT) tournament here from March 15-21. The tournament will be in direct competition with the \$25,000

Athletics

Coe to race for ICI in return for £50,000

By Norman Fox
Athletics Correspondent

Taking advantage of the International Amateur Athletic Federation's recent relaxation of rules on advertising, Sebastian Coe yesterday signed a contract with ICI Fibres estimated to involve about £50,000. The British Amateur Athletic Federation's recent relaxation of rules on advertising, Sebastian Coe yesterday signed a contract with ICI Fibres estimated to involve about £50,000. The British Amateur Athletic Federation's recent relaxation of rules on advertising, Sebastian Coe yesterday signed a contract with ICI Fibres estimated to involve about £50,000.

Coe has agreed to run in an ICI race, black and yellow vest at all events this season apart from British matches, the European Championships in Milan next month. She says she will only run in Italy if she has a chance of winning another gold medal.

Indoor athletics could soon have a world championship, according to IAAF. Speaking in Milan yesterday, he said the United States supported the idea and would probably offer Madison Square Garden as the first site.

An indication that sport in Poland is continuing to come with the announcement that a team will be sent to the European indoor championships.

Lendl, who won the Masters tournament in New York in January, was pushed all the way in the third set and just managed to win it.

Christopher (Buster) Mottram, who reached the semi-final round of the United States indoor championships at Memphis last week, was put out by the French No. 1 Yannick Noah, whom he had beaten in three sets at Memphis. Noah won 6-3, 6-0.

John Lloyd, also of Britain, who regained some of his old form to beat Eddie Dibbs yesterday, was unable to maintain that form and lost his third

round match 6-2, 6-3 to Raul Ramirez, of Mexico.

OTHER RESULTS: V. Amey (US) beat S. Glickman (France) 7-6, 6-4; R. Tanner (US) beat H. Pinner (US) 6-3, 6-4; S. Somers (US) beat T. Gullikson (US) 6-4, 6-1. — *Agence France-Press.*

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Racing

Little Owl keeps punters in dark

By Michael Seely

Little Owl's dramatic departure from the scene behind the hill in the Grand National at Aintree yesterday left us none the wiser about his chances of repeating last year's triumph in the Cheltenham Gold Cup in March. The incident took place at the fourth jump from home, where Jim Wilson and the even money favourite were poised to strike just behind the leaders, Whistle Geo and Peaty Sandy. The horse appeared to take off turned but landed steeply and tumbled completely over.

"I was quite happy until that moment," said Wilson afterwards. "He was good enough. Little Owl just didn't seem able to pull his feet out of the sticky ground."

Peter Easterby was his usual phlegmatic self as he emerged from the weighing room after watching the camera patrol film. "I've seen the film. He fell alright. If the horse is none the worse he should be in the Greenall Whitley on March 6."

Time must now be running out for Little Owl, who had jumped perfectly until that disastrous moment. William Hill have removed Little Owl from ante-post betting on the Gold Cup, offering odds of 10-1.

Verona Elder, Britain's most successful indoor athlete, will also have a hard 400 metres race against Heidi Guegel and Christine Brinkmann. Defeat would almost certainly cause her to forgo the European indoor championships in Milan next month.

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who galloped on strongly to win by a length and a half from Fortina's Express with Whistle Geo 10 lengths away third. Miss Helen Hamilton was delighted with the performance of Peaty Sandy, who has not been seen in public since his victory in the Welsh Grand National. "Peaty Sandy was only three years old today," said the trainer. "He loves the mud, is improving all the time and stays forward."

After today's win, his six pounds penalty means that Peaty Sandy would have to carry 11.6 in the Ritz National Handicap at Cheltenham, so we feel that there is nothing to be lost by selling for the Gold Cup. Fortune often favours the brave in the vast amphitheatre at the National Hunt Festival, but Ladbrokes are still prepared to offer 25-1 against Peaty Sandy winning the Blue Riband of steeplechasing.

Twenty-five to one is also on offer for the Gold Cup. The Daily Express Triumph Hurdle after Tony Charlton had ridden the four-year-old to a decisive victory over Wild Low in the first division of the Wild Duck Novice's Hurdle. "This is a good horse," said Pat Roban. "He is a bit of a jumper, but he is still managed to get to the top of the second. We'll have to wait to see what he can do at Cheltenham now."

Other big race candidates will be in action at Nottingham this afternoon. Cavity Hunter, one of the joint favourites for the Grand National, will be out to duty a 500 penalty for his victory over Critter at Ascot in the Mappervale Handicap. Cavity Hunter came home in great style that afternoon and should be too good for the Leicester winner, Moor Close. Sum of the odds on the candidates for the Arkle Challenge Trophy will be showing their places in the £7,000 Nottinghamshire Novice Chase. Golden Vow, Pay Freeze, Spinning Saint and Sailor's Return are all top-class young chasers.



Pillager: seeking to plunder Newcastle's big prize.

Golden Vow finished behind Pay Freeze when the pair were second and third to Sea Image at Kempton. Golden Vow is expected to improve enough to reverse both placings.

Newcastle features the four mile one furlong Eider Chase. Pillager was so narrowly defeated by Moor Close at Leicester that he is expected to be a contender for the Arkle Challenge Trophy. After his easy victory at Kempton last Tuesday, Ashley House is a first selection to beat Coffee Boy and Blue Reef in the final of the Vaux Breweries Novice Chase.

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Brown Chamberlin to crack China Cup

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

With £25,000 in added prize money, the China Cup is today's most valuable race meeting. And it could turn out to be something of a bonus for Fred Winter and John Ridd, who appear to have a good chance of winning two of the best races with Al Kuwait (1.15) and Brown Chamberlin (1.45).

Now that both Captain John Ridd and Brown Chamberlin have withdrawn, Brown Chamberlin's task in the Aynsley China Cup Stee

Television and radio: Saturday and Sunday

Edited by Peter Davalle

BBC 1

6.25 Open University Subjects include Richard Hoggart — A Measured Life; and Constructing Christmas, Nationwide. Ends at 6.55. 9.05 Swiss: gymnast Suzanne Dando, Barry Took and After the Fire. 12.15 Grandstand. The line-up is 12.20 Football Focus; 12.40 and 1.05 Racing from Cheltenham. 2.25 Bouncing: British Light-Weightweight Title: Clinton McKenzie vs Steve Early. 1.58 Racing from Cheltenham. 1.55 International Rugby Union: France versus England, from Parc des Princes, Rugby Union. France vs England; 3.30 Rugby Union: Ireland vs Scotland; 3.40 Football news/athletics again.

BBC 2

6.25 Open University. The line-up includes the MP's surgery. Other subjects include the Baroque Organ, Maths (ideas of space and direction), Quantum Theory and Atomic Structure, Personality and Learning, and (at 2.45) Instrumentation. Open University transmission ends at 3.10. At 3.15, Saturday Night. A comedy play, *Forbidden Fruit*, by John Gielgud, with Ava Gardner as the poor girl who becomes rich and hatches a plot to break up the marriage of the doctor she was in love with. Also starring Robert Mitchum, Melvyn Douglas, Lucie Watson, Janie Carter and Gordon Oliver.

ITV/LONDON

6.35 Seaside Street: with The Muppet. 9.35 Space 1999: Interplanetary thriller, with Martin Landau, Judy Geeson (7); 10.30 Tomorrow's today: fun for youngsters; 12.15 World of Sport: The line-up is: 12.20 On the Ball; 12.45 Athletics (Jack in the Box International news, in San Diego); 1.00 High Drive (from San Diego); 1.15 World record is attempted; 1.15 News from ITN; 1.20 The ITV Six: Three races in Newcastle, three in Nottingham. In Newcastle, we see the 1.30, 2.00 and 2.30. At 3.00 Table Tennis (Norwich Union English closed Championships). From Basingstoke. Hot favourites are last year's winners: Desmond Douglas and Jill Hammerley; 3.45 Half-time results.

Radio 4

6.30 News. 6.35 Farming Today. 6.50 Today's Papers. 7.00 Today's Papers. 7.10 On Your Farm. 7.45 Yours Faithfully. 7.55 Weather and Programme News. 8.00 News. 8.10 Today's Papers. 8.15 Sport on 4. 8.20 Yesterday in Parliament. 8.30 News. 8.35 Breakfast. 8.45 News. 8.50 The Week in Westminster. 9.00 Daily Service. 9.05 The Week in Westminster. 9.10 From our own Correspondent. 12.00 News. 12.05 Money Box. 12.10 Just a Minute. 12.15 Weather and Programme News. 1.00 News. 1.10 Any Questions? 2.00 News. 2.05 Play: 'Something in the Air' by C. P. Snow. 2.15 Medicine Now. 2.30 Wildlife. 3.00 The British Seafarer. A history in the words of those who make it. 4.15 Medics with Tom Vernon. 4.30 Does He Take Sugar? Magazine for disabled children. 5.00 News Up To Now. A look at the news before the war. 5.25 Week Ending. 5.35 Weather and Programme News. 6.00 News. 6.15 Desert Island Discs. Castaway: Petula Clark. 6.55 Sport the Week with Robert Boshell. 7.35 Baker's Dozen. 8.30 Play: 'The Fatal Flaw' by Chris Ridd. 8.58 Weather. 10.00 News. 10.15 Witch-Hunt in St. Oystin. A true story of witch-hunting. 11.00 Light On. 11.15 A Word in Edgeways.

11.45 On the Train to New Zealand. Ray Gooding talks about his travels to the East. 12.00 News and Weather Report.

Radio 3

7.55 Weather. 8.00 News. 8.05 Audebert. 8.10 News. 8.15 News. 8.20 News. 8.25 News. 8.30 News. 8.35 News. 8.40 News. 8.45 News. 8.50 News. 8.55 News. 9.00 News. 9.05 News. 9.10 News. 9.15 News. 9.20 News. 9.25 News. 9.30 News. 9.35 News. 9.40 News. 9.45 News. 9.50 News. 9.55 News. 10.00 News. 10.05 News. 10.10 News. 10.15 News. 10.20 News. 10.25 News. 10.30 News. 10.35 News. 10.40 News. 10.45 News. 10.50 News. 10.55 News. 11.00 News. 11.05 News. 11.10 News. 11.15 News. 11.20 News. 11.25 News. 11.30 News. 11.35 News. 11.40 News. 11.45 News. 11.50 News. 11.55 News. 12.00 News. 12.05 News. 12.10 News. 12.15 News. 12.20 News. 12.25 News. 12.30 News. 12.35 News. 12.40 News. 12.45 News. 12.50 News. 12.55 News. 1.00 News. 1.05 News. 1.10 News. 1.15 News. 1.20 News. 1.25 News. 1.30 News. 1.35 News. 1.40 News. 1.45 News. 1.50 News. 1.55 News. 2.00 News. 2.05 News. 2.10 News. 2.15 News. 2.20 News. 2.25 News. 2.30 News. 2.35 News. 2.40 News. 2.45 News. 2.50 News. 2.55 News. 3.00 News. 3.05 News. 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